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POLL RESULTS

Do you think the definition of who can own land in the CNMI should be changed to include long-time residents of whatever nationality?

Yes	134
No	168
Undecided	1
No opinion	7

Sunday, May 27, 2012

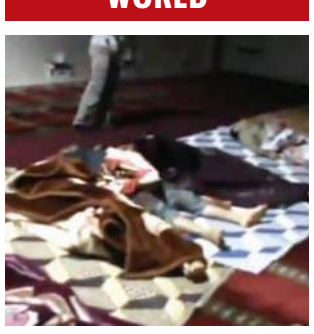
INSIDE

LOCAL

The Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination from Japan makes its annual pilgrimage to Saipan.

➤ PAGE 7

WORLD



Gruesome video shows rows of dead Syrian children lying in a mosque. ➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

Coming in second on "American Idol" may still be a path to superstardom. ➤ PAGE 20

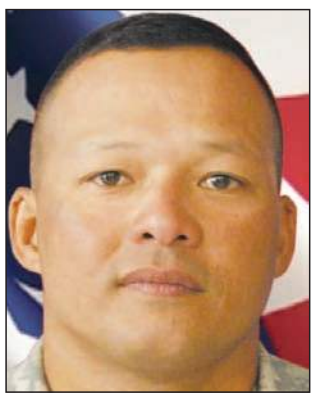
'WE WON'T FORGET THEM'

Marine Lance Cpl Ramon Taisakan Kaipat
(April 11, 2012)

Sgt. George Joseph Affatica Sablan
(Feb. 10, 2012)

U.S. Marine Cpl Dave Michael Maliksi Santos
(July 16, 2010)

Air Force SrA Audra P.M. Winkfield
(June 19, 2009)



Army SSgt. Julian F. Manglona
(Oct. 9, 2008)

Army Sgt. Brian S. Leon Guerrero
(July 10, 2008)

Navy Seaman Anamarie San Nicolas Camacho
(Oct. 22, 2007)

Army Spc. Joe Junior G. Charfauros
(June 20, 2007)

Army PFC Victor M. Fontanilla
(May 17, 2007)

Army PFC John D. Flores
(May 3, 2007)

Army SPC Leeroy A. Camacho
(Feb. 9, 2007)

Marine Lance Cpl Adam Q. Emul
(Jan. 29, 2007)

Army Sgt. Jesse J. Castro
(Dec. 6, 2006)

U.S. Army Sgt. Wilgene Lieto
(Oct. 31, 2005)

U.S. Army Spc. Derence Jack
(Oct. 31, 2005)

Army Sgt. Yihgyh "Eddie" L. Chen
(April 4, 2004)

» CNMI joins nation in Memorial Day observance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Every single day, William "Bill" Lieto, 53, wishes his son, the late U.S. Army Sgt. Wilgene Lieto, is still alive, but he said he and his family have to move on while continuing to honor the heroism and memory of their son and the rest of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice, those who are serving, and others who served, in the name of freedom and peace.

The late Army sergeant was one of two from the CNMI who lost their lives on a patrol mission in Balad, Iraq when their vehicle hit a bomb on Oct. 31, 2005.

The other one was U.S. Army Spc. Derence Jack.

Both left the CNMI for a one-year tour of duty in Iraq in January 2005, as part of the War on Terror spawned by the terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon that fateful day of Sept. 11, 2001.

"The memory of a lost son will always be there. That spot in your heart will always be there. But you have to live your life, move on, and do something for those that are still serving, through prayers or something else," the senior Lieto told *Saipan Tribune*, while volunteering his time painting a social hall in Tanapag by the beach on a rainy Saturday morning.

Lieto said Memorial Day, which the CNMI observes today with the rest of the nation, is observed "not to bring them back but a little something that shows we haven't forgotten them."

"Freedom is not free. People pay with their lives, and that makes them heroes. They gave everything for the freedom of

See HEROISM on Page 4

Two companies to get renewable energy contracts soon. PAGE 3
Saipan Agricultural Fair returns with a bang. PAGE 9

Local

Coral Ocean Point wins the Booth Decorating Competition of the Taste of the Marianas with its generous use of palm fronds, coconut fruit, and bananas. CLARISSA V. DAVID

COP wins Taste of the Marianas booth contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Coral Ocean Point was adjudged the winner in the Booth Decorating Competition of the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

COP bested 14 other vendors in the annual contest that promotes the use of indigenous and recyclable materials.

COP was presented a wooden trophy after being declared the winner on Saturday, the last night of the festival. COP will have a chance to pay only 50 percent their booth fee or $150 should COP decide to take part in the festival next year.

COP staff said the idea to decorate their booth using palm fronds, coconut fruit, and bananas came from Rowena Torres, wife of Suwaso Corp. board chair Vincent Deleon Guerrero Torres.

"It took us a month of preparation and also teamwork to create a winning booth. Our efforts paid off so we're really very happy," the COP staff told *Saipan Tribune*.

COP's victory in the Booth Decorating Competition comes a week after its food and beverage manager Ronnie C. Guevarra topped the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition hosted by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association at the Taste of the Marianas grounds on May 19.

Other winners of the Booth Decorating Competition were Tropical Chill, second place; Herman's Modern Bakery, third place; and Fiesta Resort & Spa, fourth place.

Criteria for judging were overall look of the island theme presentation, 30 points; creativity, 15 points; originality, 15 points, use of local and indigenous material, 20 points; and use of recyclable materials, 20 points for a total of 100 points.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, in a separate interview, said the contest seeks "to encourage our vendors to decorate their booth not necessarily for the competition but for the community."

"We extend our congratulations to the winners and also congratulations to the other vendors that tried and participated," he told *Saipan Tribune* at the festival grounds on May 26.

According to Tenorio, the big crowd at the festival for all Saturdays of May speaks of the community's embrace of the Taste of the Marianas. He noted that the event caters to both residents and tourists.

"Basically, it's a wonderful family event and people just love to come here. We try to benefit our visitors as well. We look forward to seeing everybody next year," he added.

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AFTER US SOCIAL SECURITY BUYBACK FOR CNMI

Inos: Modified HB 17-226 will allow withdrawal of leftovers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is proposing a modified version of the vetoed House Bill 17-226 that would allow non-retired members to withdraw their contributions from the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan, among other things, after a buyback into the U.S. Social Security system that could cost some $60 million in employee and employer contributions for five years or 20 quarters.

The amount of withdrawals, however, is not up to 50 percent of the contributions but whatever is left after a buyback into Social Security.

Inos, who described the vetoed legislation as "shortsighted" and "political grandstanding," said even if HB 17-226 is overridden by the House and Senate, there is an automatic stay because of the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

"I do not know that any action that will be approved during the period of automatic stay will make that action effective upon the lifting of the stay," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Saipan Agriculture Fair in Susupe on Saturday.

» Vetoed bill 'shortsighted, political grandstanding'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed HB 17-226 on Friday, but the bill's author, Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) told reporters he will push for an override of the veto.

Non-retired Fund members led by Joe Pangelinan said they will lobby the Legislature to override the veto. The conference committee version of HB 17-226 passed the House by a vote of 13-6 and the Senate, by 6-2, and not 7-0 as earlier reported.

Inos echoed the Fund's position that the bill as it is currently worded will accelerate the Retirement Fund's demise.

"I think that we can make it work...We would allow the withdrawal to take place if we can agree on a buyback," Inos said, as he encourages all parties to rally behind the Social Security buyback.

Inos, who is leading the administration's effort in addressing the Fund crisis, said when the Fitial administration asked the Legislature to recall HB 17-226, the goal was to work on another version and not to trash the whole legislation altogether.

He said he understands the push to have immediate access to members' cash contribution but he believes the bill is shortsighted.

"We have cases wherein employees quit, had to resign to withdraw. They withdrew, they can't come back to work. In fact, they're still unemployed up to now. And they're probably in the food stamp line. I don't want that. I don't want to see that. I want to be able to offer some safety net for these folks. That's our responsibility in my view," Inos said.

He asked, "Why don't we just make it better to take care of the short-term concerns as well as long terms?"

On April 17, the Fund became the first public pension agency on American soil to seek bankruptcy protection.

Inos reiterated that he and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) have been meeting to discuss legislation that will specifically include the CNMI in the definition of "state" that is allowed buyback.

"Either that or include the CNMI specifically for purposes of buyback," he said.

Under Cabrera's vetoed bill, active members of the Fund would be allowed to take back up to 50 percent of their employee contributions regardless of years of service and without penalty or the need for them to quit their job. The rest of their employee contributions will be rolled over to the Fund's defined contribution plan.

But Fitial, in his two-page veto message, cited two main concerns with HB 17-226, including the preservation of legislative authority and increased benefits.

"I believe, in the near future, I will have the privilege of signing a substantially similar legislative enactment; however, at this time, I must, with regret, return this with veto. Notwithstanding this action, I and my administration stand ready to work with you on solutions," Fitial had said.

Two companies to get renewable energy contracts soon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Japan-based Saipan Solar System and U.S.-based American Capital Energy Co. are expected to sign contracts soon with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to provide an additional 20 megawatts or 10 megawatts each of alternative or renewable energy, the Fitial administration and businessmen said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that CUC is "getting close to issuing the contract for the two 10-MW projects" involving "two different companies." He said these contracts are for photovoltaic solar energy, and are for some 20 years each "to recover capital."

"Hopefully technical issues will be addressed [soon]," Inos said, adding that each will sell renewable energy to CUC.

Inos said the award of these contracts does not mean the emergency declaration for CUC will be lifted, "because it's going to take a while before they go into production."

Besides, he said, there were other reasons that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial cited when he issued an executive order placing CUC under a state of emergency, including a cash crisis.

Herman Sablan, a local business partner of American Capital Energy, confirmed that they have been waiting for the actual contract award for months, and is hoping that with CUC now under a state of emergency, a contract will be forthcoming.

American Capital responded to Phase 1 of a solar power project, and was considered the best bid. Two companies protested the Phase procurement, but both firms—including Saipan Solar System—voluntarily dropped their protests, Sablan said.

Saipan Solar System also responded to Phase 2 of the solar power project and was determined the best bid.

Phases 1 and 2 involve 10 megawatts each.

Efrain F. Camacho, president of EFC Engineers & Architects, said yesterday that his firm has been retained by Saipan Solar System, which he said is in the early phase of negotiating for a power purchase agreement.

"As far as we know, there's not been any protest. If there were, we would have been notified by now. Saipan Solar went through a normal procurement process," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said the first site of Saipan Solar's project involving 0.2MW will be in Marpi; the second site will be in Koblerville.

CUC is required by law to derive at least 40 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2012.

Abe Malae, who turned resigned shortly after CUC was placed under emergency, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that this requirement is "unrealistic."

"And even if it were online, it would destabilize the grid. But we have to work with that because that is what the politicians passed," Malae said.

Malae's resignation takes effect 30 days from May 24, 2012. Lawmakers said the CNMI is making a big mistake letting go of Malae, who turned CUC around by getting the CNMI out of rolling blackouts and stabilized the power supply.

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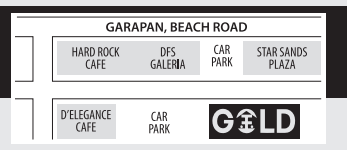

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Marianas Resort shines in Taste of the Marianas cook-off challenge

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Marianas Resort & Spa's five-member culinary team receives their $500 cash prize and gift package after winning the top spot in the Taste of the Marianas Certified Angus Beef Chef's Competition 2012 held last Saturday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Marianas Resort & Spa's culinary team was named the overall winner of the Taste of the Marianas Certified Angus Beef Chefs' Competition 2012 held at the festival grounds Saturday night.

The team—compOsed of executive chef William Retardo and assistant chefs Edgardo Malabayabas, Emmanuel Pancha, Greg Magofna, and Raymond Palacios—reigned supreme in this year's five-way competition.

All participating teams were required to use Certified Angus Beef Chuck Roll for their versions of Marianas Beef Stew using local ingredients, and the entries were judged based on taste, tenderness and texture, and presentation.

The winning team bagged $500 in cash and a Certified Angus Beef gift package courtesy of Triple J.

Saturday's culinary challenge, sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, which exclusively distributes Certified Angus Beef products on island, brought out the remarkable abilities of some of the island's chefs and their creativity.

Marianas Resort's "Gollai Appan Katnen" or Vegetable & Beef Stew was prepared using the finest local produce, including coconut pulp and milk, fresh mango, taro potato, okra, and onion.

In an interview after the event, executive chef Retardo said the beef chuck roll is actually wrapped in coconut pulp and its flavor is enhanced by mango.

The meat, he said, is grilled for a while before it is cooked in slow fire. "The sauce comes from the meat itself and the fruits," said Retardo.

He said they felt confident about their chances of winning in the creativity department alone upon seeing their food presentation against the other entries Their artistic fountain made of actual coconut and coconut juice attracted the attention of spectators to their bamboo hut-table embellished with other local fruits.

Retardo, who has been with Marianas Resort since 1991 and was promoted to executive chef in 2002, revealed that the group only had two days to prepare the recipe and a day to complete the decorations.

"This is the second time that we've joined this competition," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "The first time was in 2008 and we also won that year."

Retardo said the entire kitchen staff were involved in improving the taste of the dish, which will be included in their dinner menu at the 12 Night Restaurant starting today. Local diners will be given a special discount so they can try the dish, he added.

"We would like to thank Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, especially Jay Santos, all the judges, and the management and staff of Marianas Resort for their support," said Retardo.

Coming in at second place was Hyatt Regency Saipan for their recipe for Slow Braised Chuck Involtini, Taro, Raisin, Roasted Farm Tomato, Marianas Spices & Banana Chips. The team of executive chef Gabriele Colombo and assistant chefs Ricardo Silvestre, Zenn Tomokane, Jo Deleon Guerrero, and Vesh Tappa won $300 plus gift package.

In third place was Pacific Islands Club led by executive chef Habib Akbar and assistant chefs Joel Linaogo, Keoni Lizama, and Vinson Guerrero for their Kadon Ka'nen Guaka or Island Beef Stew dish. The group won $200.

Contest judges were Tan Holdings vice president Alex Sablan, legal counsel Vincent Seman, Marianas Legal Strategy Group partner Marcia Schultz, and Deloitte's Michael Johnson.

Triple J Saipan marketing manager Jay Santos said in a separate interview that while they wish to have more participants, they are still happy that five teams took part in the annual competition.

"There's no other true chefs' competition on island and we're happy to do this every year," said Santos, adding that he agrees with the decision of the judges as the top three dishes were "absolutely fabulous."

HEROISM

From Page 1

everyone. Among them is my son," the father said. "Every day, I wish he were still alive."

The older Lieto, now president of the Tanapag Parish Council, said he misses his son but having his family, relatives, and friends all make it easier to cope and move on.

"We are a small community, the family support is always there," added Lieto, who has been a maintenance staff at Garapan Elementary School for 25 years and is himself a former Army Reserve member from 1982 to 1986.

Rota resident David M. Santos said yesterday that while he had been taking part in Memorial Day ceremonies for years because he comes from a family of service members, the event took on a deeper meaning when his 21-year-old son, the late U.S. Marine Cpl Dave Michael Maliksi Santos, was killed at the hands of a fellow Marine in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan on July 16, 2010.

"Losing a son or a loved one in the service gives a whole new meaning to Memorial Day. He is a fallen hero not only to the family but also to the community," the older Santos said.

He called on community members to take part in Memorial Day ceremonies today.

"This is a day to come together for our fallen heroes. People should set aside politics and other personal conflicts for this day, and I hope there will be more people showing up at the ceremony today," he said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who served in Iraq along with Lieto and Jack as members of the 100 Battalion, 442 Infantry Regime of the U.S. Army Reserve, used to think of Memorial Day as a nice day-off while growing up. That is, until he served in the military.

> "Freedom is not free. People pay with their lives, and that makes them heroes. They gave everything for the freedom of everyone."

"Since after deployments to Iraq, it took on a whole new meaning to me," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*. "I remember those who I am so proud to have served with, who died while serving our nation and all those from the CNMI who have also died serving our military."

Yumul said Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for all military men and women who have died while serving the United States military since the Civil War and on to the present.

"Now I will always reflect on this day for the rest of my life. Rest in peace SSG Lieto and CPL Jack, my brothers in arms," Yumul said.

Firefighter 1 Patrick George, 34, said it's always good to honor those who serve and served. He said he went to school with Lieto—also a police officer—at Hopwood Junior High School and Marianas High School.

"We paid tribute to him and others who were police officers and military personnel during the recent Police Memorial," George said on Saturday's Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe.

Lieto, Jack, and Santos are but three of CNMI sons and daughters who paid with their lives for peace and freedom—from at least World War II to the ongoing War on Terror.

In the War on Terror alone, the CNMI has already lost 16 sons and daughters. They are among the more than 6,000 U.S. men and men who lost their lives since 2001.

Besides Lieto, Jack and Santos, the 13 other men and women from the CNMI who lost their lives while serving in the War against Terror include: Army Sgt. Yihgyh "Eddie" L. Chen (April 4, 2004), Army Sgt. Jesse J. Castro (Dec. 6, 2006), Marine Lance Cpl Adam Q. Emul (Jan. 29, 2007), Army SPC Leeroy A. Camacho (Feb. 9, 2007), Army PFC John D. Flores (May 3, 2007), Army PFC Victor M. Fontanilla (May 17, 2007), Army Spc. Joe Junior G. Charfauros (June 20, 2007), Navy Seaman Anamarie San Nicolas Camacho (Oct. 22, 2007), Army Sgt. Brian S. Leon Guerrero (July 10, 2008), Army SSgt. Julian F. Manglona (Oct. 9, 2008), Air Force SrA Audra P.M. Winkfield (June 19, 2009), Sgt. George Joseph Affatica Sablan (Feb. 10, 2012), and Marine Lance Cpl Ramon Taisakan Kaipat (April 11, 2012).

Ann Marie Satur, 23, a cousin of the late Marine Lance Cpl Ramon T. Kaipat, told *Saipan Tribune* during a Mass for her cousin that she's proud and thankful for her cousin's sacrifice.

"He's a true Refaluwasch warrior. He's our hero, someone who gave up his life to ensure we continue to live our life freely," Satur said in an interview inside the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

Kaipat was killed while on combat patrol in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan on April 11, 2012. He died as a result of "multiple injuries" from an improvised explosive device. He was a member of a dismounted patrol that was struck by an IED while on combat patrol.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said this Memorial Day, "Give honor, give respect and give gratitude" to those who served and are serving in the military.

Today's Memorial Day observance on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota caps the observance of Memorial Week.

In previous years, special guests for Memorial Day observance spoke of heroism of countless men and women around the world.

"We must help future generations understand that the act of committing yourself to your country and being willing to fight—and die—for the freedom of others is among the most noble endeavors," one of them had said.

Creditors committee agrees to continued payment of benefits

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors has agreed with the NMI Retirement Fund's court request to be allowed to keep providing benefits to its beneficiaries while its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case remains pending.

The committee, through counsel Don Jeffrey Gelber, said that payments to beneficiaries should start on the June 30, 2012, payment and continue for eight semi-monthly pay periods (a period of four months).

Gelber said a beneficiary currently receiving $250 or less per semi-monthly period ($6,000 or less on an annual basis) will continue to receive the same payment.

A beneficiary currently receiving more than $250 per semi-pay period (more than $6,000 on an annual basis) will receive, for each semi-monthly period, the greater of (1) 75 percent of the payment that would have been made had the Chapter 11 case not been commenced, or (2) $250, Gelber said.

He said the Fund should continue to pay life and health insurance premiums at the current unreduced rate.

The Fund's request to be allowed to continue paying out benefits to beneficiaries had proposed a rate of payments that is between 42 percent and 100 percent of current benefits.

Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching said they will not object to the Fund's motion provided that there will be limitations. Ching said the authorization should be limited to two months without prejudice to the Fund seeking approval for continued payments.

Ching said the authorization should be at a rate that would allow the Fund to sustain itself. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JKPL unveils 2012 summer programs

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has launched its 2012 summer reading program called "Dream Big." The objective of the program is to explore the library as a wealth of resources for the entire family during the summer and all year round, and to retain the love of lifelong reading through various interactive activities and fun learning experiences.

JKPL will be offering four main summer programs in Susupe:

1. THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE: It is a program that will keep your child's eyes and mind working by the means of reading different books that are available at the library. Each child is required to read at least 15 books but is allowed to read as many as he/she pleases. So if your child has nothing else to do during this summer, this is the time to register and borrow books, maintain a reading log to monitor progress, and challenge him/herself. On the last day of submission of the reading log the COHL Librarian will verify your reading log to see if you have met your goal. Upon registration your child has to be 6 years old and must have a valid library card and no outstanding library fines.

- Program runs from May 22 to July 24, 2012.
- Last day to submit reading log sheet is July 24, 2012 by 5:00pm.

2. SUMMER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: Parents need to register their child with the COHL Librarian on what activities are offered throughout the six-week excitement that the library has to offer. So please register and save a seat for your child this summer.

- Sign – ins run from June 19 to July 27, 2012.
- Time: 10am to 11:30am, Tuesday to Saturday.

3. GRAND FINALE: The Grand Finale has always been our exciting part of the Summer Reading Program. It is the time to congratulate and show off our top readers for the summer! Best of all they will receive a trophy and certificate for completing the program.

- Grand Finale on July 28, 2012.
- 10am at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library *Children of Our Homeland Cultural Center.*

4. UKULELE CLASS: Learning ukulele has become very popular with many students as they learn the parts of the ukulele, how to strum properly, and play music. Be sure that you provide your own ukulele, a three-ring binder and protective sheets to store your song sheets. Register now as there are only limited spaces. The minimum enrollment would be 20 students and the maximum is 40 students.

- Registration ongoing and ends June 8, 2012.
- Basic Level course runs June 12 to July 25, 2012, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2pm – 3pm. Tuition cost: $40
- Level 2 course runs July 10 to August 2, 2012, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15pm – 4:15pm. Tuition cost: $40
- Tuition is per course level (for eight sessions) per student.

For more information, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe, or call 235-7316 or log into the library's website at www.cnmilibrary.com.

Library Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am to 6pm; Saturday 9am to 4pm; closed on Sunday, Mondays and holidays. ***(JKPL)***

HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School Honor Roll list for 4th Quarter:

6th Grade

"A" Honor 3.50-3.99
Joo Young Kim
Jae Hyun Park

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49
Nathanael Lim
Harry Woo
Rachel kim
Tae yeon Kim

7th Grade

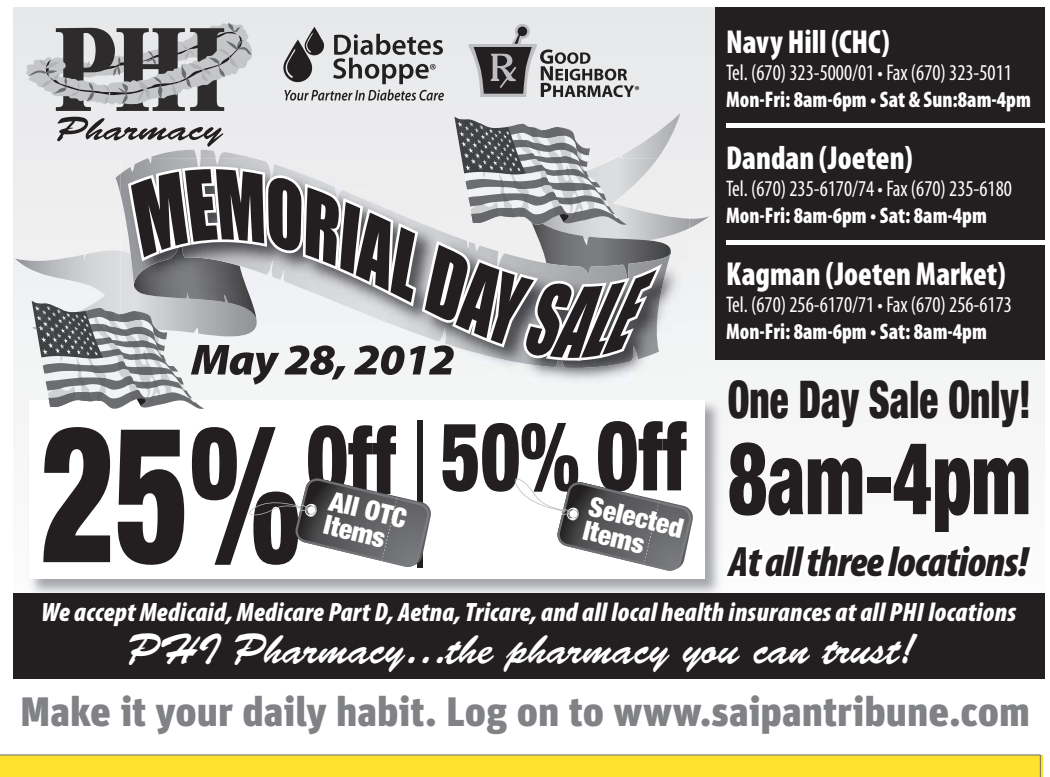
"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
Kevin Lee
Yu Bin Park
Stephanie Lee
Shirley Qian

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49
Carl Dela Cruz
Madison Santos
Yoon Hee Kim
Daniel Jang

8th Grade

"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
Quintin Ramsey
Mary Grace Tiglao
Jason Lee
Jameson Lee
Ji Hoon Lee

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49
Jun Pyo Jeon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Judge's ruling affirms $191.4K civil penalties vs Tinian Dynasty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An administrative law judge in San Francisco has affirmed the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division's decision to impose $191,400 in civil penalty against the owner and management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for willful and repeat violations of the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

In an order issued on May 18, 2012, Labor's administrative law judge Jennifer Gee ruled that the Wage and Hour Division has shown that the civil penalty assessed against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. and its president, Kwan Man, was appropriate.

Gee determined that as a matter of law, Kwan exercises economic control over HKE's employees and qualifies as an employer under the FLSA.

The judge, however, ruled that because HKE financial controller Raymond Chan's degree of control over HKE's employees is disputed, and there is evidence pointing in both directions, she cannot decide his status as an employer under the FLSA, as a matter of law, as this time.

"Because the civil money penalties were assessed against HKE, Mr. Kwan, and Mr. Chan jointly, and Mr. Chan's status cannot be resolved through summary decision, I cannot order payment of the civil money penalties until his status is determined," said Gee in a 26-page order.

The judge set a hearing for Sept. 6, 2012, at 9am in the Department of Labor courtroom in San Francisco, California, to decide on the issue of whether Chan is an employer under the FLSA and also liable for the civil money penalties.

According to Labor records, Wage and Hour Division filed civil penalties against the respondents for willful and repeated violations of FLSA provisions. Wage and Hour moved for summary judgment, arguing that it has shown all facts necessary to impose civil money penalties against the respondents.

Wage and Hour argued that, as a matter of law, the civil money penalties of $191,400 assessed against the respondents was appropriate and should be affirmed.

The respondents, through counsel G. Anthony Long, argued, among other things, that majority of the evidence submitted by Wage and Hour is not admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence and cannot be considered.

In her order, Gee stated that it is uncontested that Chan and Kwan were both fully aware of HKE's obligation under the FLSA to pay employees their overtime wages on time and had gained that knowledge by the close of the first investigation, at the latest.

The first investigation refers to the Wage and Hour's investigation of HKE's payroll practices for the period from Feb. 6, 1999, to Feb. 9, 2001. Wage and Hour did a second investigation of HKE's payroll practices from March 16, 2007, to May 26, 2007.

Gee found that Wage and Hour supplied evidence that in 1999 to 2001 at least some of HKE's employees were not paid the overtime wages they were owed within two weeks of their regular payday.

The judge said she finds no evidence that contradicts the facts put forward by Wage and Hour, facts that show that respondents paid overtime wages late in 2007.

Gee found the respondents' overtime violations in 2007 were willful violations, and were "both repeat and willful."

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is one of the CNMI's largest private-sector employers. The investigation found the employer withheld the overtime earnings from 348 employees when they failed to pay these workers over four bi-weekly pay periods. The back wages were subsequently paid in full.

"We are very pleased with this decision," said Ruben Rosalez, acting regional administrator of the division's Western Region. ***(With PR)***

Case vs owner of defunct remittance center dismissed

The federal court has dismissed the case against the owner of a defunct remittance center who was charged with conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed without prejudice the indictment against Haydn Villegas.

Manglona issued the order last week after the U.S. government and Villegas both agreed to dismiss the indictment.

Dismissal without prejudice means the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy told the court that issues have arisen that call into question whether the government can prove its case against Villegas beyond reasonable doubt.

Badawy said Villegas and his counsel, Timothy H. Bellas, agreed with this motion to dismiss the case.

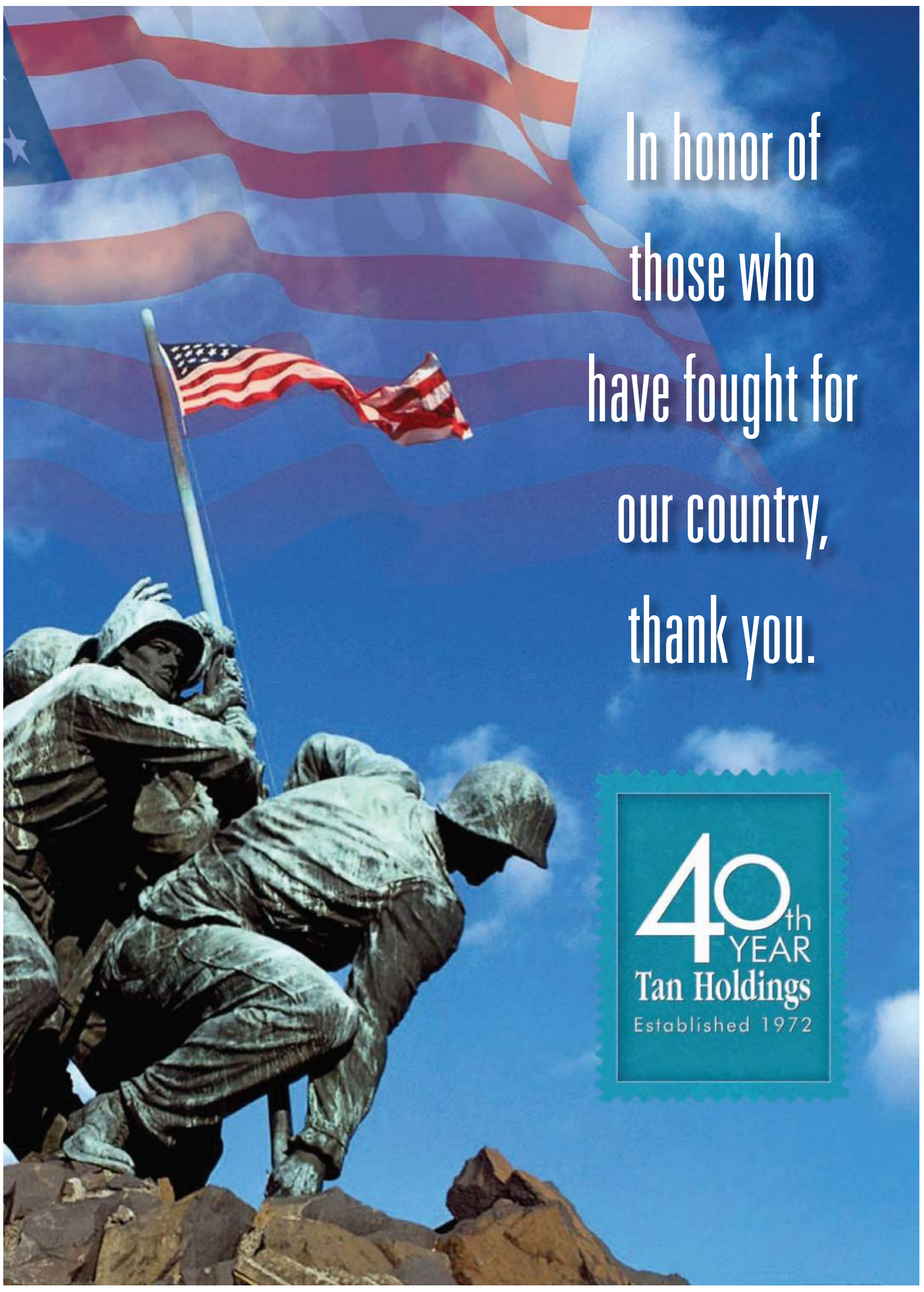
Villegas, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, earlier stated that neither he nor his wife, Ana Maria V. Villegas, were aware that co-defendant Armilaine Salamat was falsifying their company's books.

Ms. Villegas did not request Salamat to do so, nor did she request Salamat to illegally wire the money, said Bellas.

Salamat used to serve as manager of PNB Express, which was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank.

In June 2010, Salamat pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud. She is currently awaiting her sentencing.

Mr. Villegas was the co-owner of the defunct Philippine Express Remittance who allegedly defrauded the Philippine National Bank of about $109,855. The Villegas couple pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) , in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 35.912, are announcing that a public hearing will be held regarding the state priority lists for both drinking water and wastewater projects eligible for funding under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "State Revolving Fund" construction grant program. The proposed priority lists are available for public review any time during regular working hours at the CUC Engineering Office, located on the third floor of the Joeten Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. The lists were developed in accordance with the CNMI's priority ranking systems, on the basis of a number of factors including the affected population served by each project, the degree to which public health and the environment would be protected, and a number of other factors which may also be reviewed, upon request, at the CUC Engineering Office. Electronic copies of the lists and scoring criteria may also be obtained by sending an e-mail to brian.bearden@cucgov.org, or larry.manacop@cucgov.org.

The public hearing will be held at the DEQ Main Conference Room at the Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, at **noon (12:00 p.m.) on Monday, June 18, 2012**. For additional information, please contact the CUC Water and Wastewater Engineering staff at 235-7025 through -7030.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Nenpou Shinkyou's memorial ceremony honors WWII dead

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination from Japan once again made its annual pilgrimage to Saipan and held a memorial ceremony honoring all those who perished during World War II.

Founded by Reigen Ogura, Nenpou Shinkyou aims to bring the teachings of Goseikun or the "True Way" into the lives of its people to create a better world—one that is filled with joy each day—for everyone.

The group has about a million of believers in their 88 temples throughout Japan, said Aya Matsumoto of Pacific Eagle Enterprises.

This year marks Nenpou Shinkyou's 6th memorial ceremony. Some 60 members of the group's Hokuriku District offered flowers and paper cranes as they sang and recited prayers by the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi yesterday morning. Another similar service followed at Banzai Cliff before noon.

RELATED NEWS
See more photos on
Page 14

Led by high priest Ryoyu Okeya, the group arrived early Saturday morning and immediately took part in a cleanup around Marpi in preparation for the ceremony.

JTB and Pacific Eagle Enterprises served as ground handler and coordinator for Nenpou Shinkyou's visit.

Okeya said in his remarks that while the Northern Mariana Islands is considered a "paradise" for its natural beauty, it was also the setting of an "appalling" and "horrible" scene during the tragic war that claimed 55,000 lives of soldiers and civilians.

He expressed his condolences to those who died in the war and said that Nenpou Shinkyou built at Banzai Cliff a monument signifying two hands in prayer, which means wishing for "permanent peace."

Okeya said their group is optimistic that all people would promote world peace and that they would pray that the good relationship between the CNMI and Nenpou Shinkyou will continue.

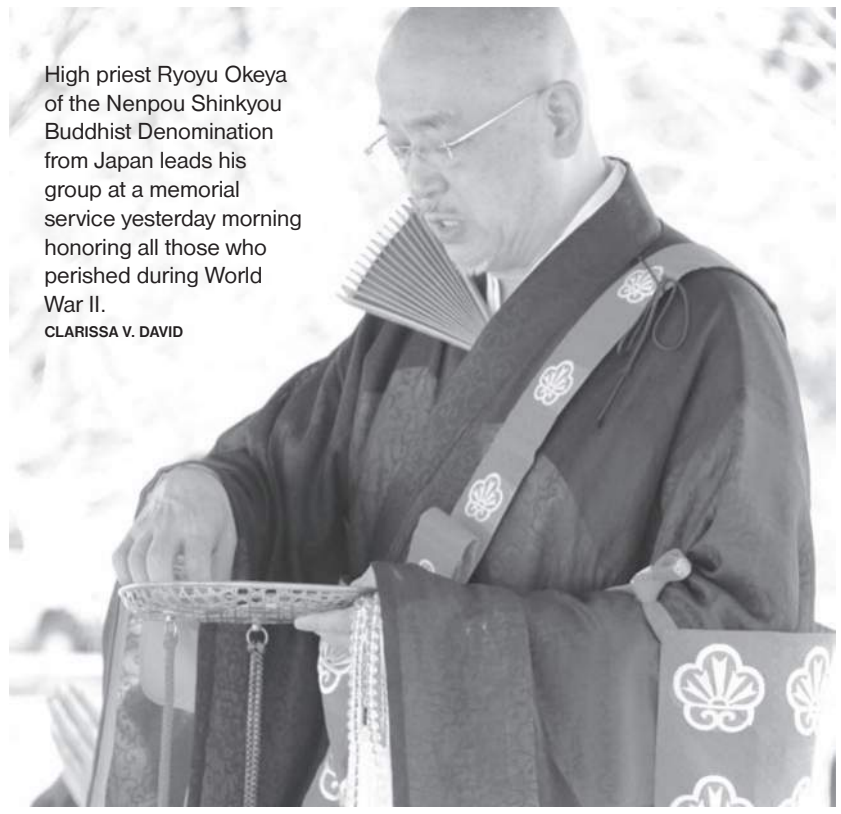
Participating in the ceremony were Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, his legal counsel Teresa Kim, Mayor Donald G. Flores, managing director Perry Tenorio of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, and MVA's Hiroko Tenorio.

Inos said it was a great honor to join the group in their ceremony and that Saipan takes pride in serving as a home for their first monument built outside of Japan.

"We're very much honored that you have continued this tradition of memorial service in our island," he said. "Today, we're sincerely grateful for the friendship and peaceful ties we enjoy with Japan. Much of our heritage and cultural upbringing are of Japanese influence. Together, we have rebuilt our once war-torn societies."

At the event, Flores presented Resolution No. 12-01 which expressed appreciation to Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination for its commitment to the Commonwealth's tourism industry and for the group's untiring efforts in spreading world peace.

The group is scheduled to fly back to Japan today.



High priest Ryoyu Okeya of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination from Japan leads his group at a memorial service yesterday morning honoring all those who perished during World War II.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

GOOD JOB!
Congratulations to Sebastian Bernardo for finishing 2nd grade with honors: PGFC winner, Mathcourt participant, Best in Language and Top 2 in class! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, Atchie Abby, and Tita Vera. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross annual meeting

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having their annual meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections of the voting members of its board of directors, review reports by Chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

DEQ sets COP beach cleanup next Saturday

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach on Saipan on June 2, 2012, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the beach entrance parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

NMC School of Education Open House next Friday

The Northern Marianas College School of Education is hosting an Open House for those who are considering teaching as a profession. Participants of the Open House can learn about new scholarship opportunities like the TEACH Grant Program, the four different academic concentrations available at the School of Education, and other program features. The free Open House will be held on Friday, June 1, 2012, at NMC's Building J from 4pm to 6pm. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about the event, contact 234-5498 Ext. 2234. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

CLARISSA V. DAVID

From right to left, B.K. Park of the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands, chair Vicky Benavente of the Marianas Tourism Education Council, HANMI's Marcia Schultz and Michael Johnson.

HANMI donates $1K to MTEC

» Nonprofit group to celebrate 10th anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As it marks its tenth anniversary this year, the Marianas Tourism Education Council wants improved participation among the youth in their efforts to heighten community awareness on the importance of the tourism industry in the Commonwealth, said council chair Vicky Benavente.

MTEC aims to foster and improve community understanding and support for the visitor industry; educate the public, especially students, about the value, social benefits and economic contributions made to the community by the tourism industry; and to instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Adai" hospitality spirit throughout the CNMI.

The nonprofit group involves students through the formation of Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically Club or MY WAVE Clubs to instill in them the awarness that "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

Benavente explained how MTEC intends to increase the level of participation among the islands' youth in the MY WAVE initiative.

"We have about eight MY WAVE Clubs right now and we'd like to increase it to 30 because we have about that number of public and private schools in the community," she told *Saipan Tribune* at the last night of the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden.

According to Benavente, more involvement among students translates to less misunderstanding on the value of the islands' hospitality industry.

"Tourism is very important," she emphasized.

Last Saturday, Benavente received on behalf of MTEC a donation from the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands. HANMI's B.K. Park presented the $1,000 check.

Park said their group believes that the donation will be used wisely as it will support MTEC's efforts to engage the students in improving the Commonwealth's main industry.

"They're supporting us and we're supporting them," he added.

Benavente, for her part, said they are grateful to HANMI for the donation, which will be used to sustain the youth's participation in MTEC programs through the MY WAVE Clubs.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

Request for Proposal
CUC-RFP-12-017:
Financial And Compliance Audit For Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2012
ADDENDUM NO. 1
Date: May 17, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments and notifications to CUC-RFP-12-017:

- Extension of Proposal Submission Deadline:
  One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM CHST on **June 15, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.
- Extension of Inquiry Submission Deadline:
  All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM CHST on **June 1, 2012** to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren @cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

ALAN FLETCHER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.o. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Executive Meeting is scheduled for **May 31, 2012, (Thursday) beginning at 1:30 P.M., at the Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe**, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Presence of Quorum
II. Consent Items
   1. Adoption of Agenda
   2. Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – February 08, 2012
III. New Business
   A) Commonwealth Constitution: Article III
      Re: Section 9: Executive Functions
      (c) Reprieves, Commutations and Pardons
IV. Old Business
   A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
V. Miscellaneous
   Other Matters
VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

May 14, 2012
Date

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 28, 1999

Teno seeks review of housing allowance

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday asked the Legislature to review existing rental rates of private properties in order to establish the base for housing allowance that will be granted to government employees receiving such benefit. According to the governor, since last year his administration has been considering reducing the housing allowance for off-island hires because of budgetary constraints confronting the government. CNMI has chose to provide some government employees the cash equivalent of such perks because most of its properties are dilapidated and in poor condition. Refurbishing these buildings, however, would cost the financially-troubled island government more, Tenorio explained.

CPA weighs Tinian Shipping plea for tax cut

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday assured Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Ltd., board chairman Michael Kwan that CPA will review a request to lower passenger fees to assist one of its subsidiaries -- the financially beleaguered Tinian Shipping. The Seaport Facilities Committee was tasked to review the financial records of Tinian Shipping so that it can make the necessary recommendations to the board. Salas said Tinian Dynasty will be notified within two weeks on the board's decision. Tinian Shipping has asked a reduction of the passenger head tax from $3.75 to $1 for the company staff for two years.

May 28, 2001

April seaport earnings lowest in FYO1

The seemingly overcast state of collections at the Customs Division turned even dimmer as the Seaport Branch last month recorded its lowest total for the financial year 2001. April, the seventh month of the fiscal year, saw seaport earnings plunge to only $1.4 million. The figure is $233,322 less than collections the previous month of March, which stood at more than $1.6 million. Although, Customs Division Director Jose C. Mafnas noted that a month-by-month comparison is not an accurate measure of how collections are fairing, there is no denying that April 2001's revenue from seaport dues was the lowest in the current fiscal year.

GDDC deplores funding woes

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities disclosed that lack of funding for regular State Plan Medicaid services affected major services for individuals with disabilities. In fact, territories are not allowed to apply for community waivers because of the Medicaid cap. In a resolution released by the Council, the agency adopted the Policy Brief on Family support for the United States territories developed by the National Center for Family support and the United States Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

May 28, 2002

$39K mulled for emergency systems

A measure that would earmark $39,317 from the CNMI Ambulance Fee Act of 2000 to buy emergency medical supplies and the repair and maintenance of ambulances and fire emergency vehicles takes a step closer to being passed after it hurdled final reading in the Senate last week. House Bill 13-3, which was authored by House Floor leader Jesus T. Attao now goes before Gov. Juan N. Babauta for consideration and passage. The measure primarily aims to fulfill the mandate and intent of Public Law 12-6, which created a specific fee that would go toward the upkeep and maintenance of emergency systems in the Commonwealth, such as the ambulance service and the fire emergency service.

Outbound traffic shrinks 13 percent

The number of outbound passengers dropped 13 percent last month to 38,596 from 43,945 in April 2001, reflecting a significant slowdown in air transport traffic, a report obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed. CPA board chair Roman S. Palacios said a variety of factors contributed to the declining trend in passenger haul, citing economic and financial concerns as the primary reason. Palacios said an increasing number of Saipan residents and guest workers have temporarily suspended travel plans due to persistent job worries brought about by gloomy economic picture. He said the ports authority has recorded a declining trend in the number of outbound passengers since the beginning of the current financial year, with October 2001 figures reaching only 27,094, which is about 41 percent lower than the previous year of the same month's tally.

After 2-year hiatus, Saipan Agricultural Fair returns with a bang

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

This boy checks out one of the goats on display at the Civic Center last Saturday as part of the 29th Saipan Agricultural Fair.

Tons of people of all ages and different backgrounds trooped to the Civic Center last Saturday for the 29th Saipan Agricultural Fair, an event the public missed out on for two years due to budget cuts.

The venue was transformed into a massive showcase of the best breeds of farm animals, vegetables, fruits, other crops and plants as well as a petting zoo for kids who got an up close look of rabbits, chickens, cows, pigs, goats, and even a tank of live tilapia.

Although the daylong festivities kicked off with an opening ceremony at 9am, Civic Center was already buzzing with activities as the judging of entries for the categories under the Plant and Animal Divisions as well as the 4-H Youth Division began as early as 6am.

Judges were composed of Eliceo Castro, George Moses, and Edgar Tudor for the Animal Division; Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, Dr. Ross Miller, and Margaret Tudela for the Plant Division; and Julie O. Manglona, Reyna M. Saures, and Diana Camacho for the 4-H Youth category.

Organized by the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association and Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the fair culminated the Semanan Lanchero or Farmers Week observance.

"This annual event brings our local community together and strongly supports a significant aspect of our local culture," said Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos in his remarks.

He said the nearly three-decade tradition not only promotes fresh produce but also supports good nutrition and food sustainability as well as the value of hard work and dedication, entrepreneurship, and self-sufficiency.

"I wish to congratulate all the farmers and ranchers participating today. Thank you for keeping our longstanding tradition alive and well," he added.

DLNR Secretary Arnold I. Palacios said the islands can no longer think of agriculture as an afterthought. "We must make a conscious commitment to put this industry in the forefront of our discussions in the community," he said.

Ramon B. Camacho, president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association, said the Commonwealth only has two major resources: its waters where people fish and its land, which they use for farming.

"These two resources must be protected," said Camacho. "Farming is our culture and we need to continue this for the future generations."

Other officials in attendance were Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Northern Marianas College's Hart, and Mayor Roke B. Blas of Sinajana, Guam, all of whom commended the organizing committee for a successful event.

Saturday's fairgoers had the chance to check out and even pet a variety of goats, rabbits, turkeys, ducks, hens, roosters, beef cattle, and swine. Dr. Allan Sabaldica of NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service was also seen demonstrating to pig growers the proper way of castrating young pigs.

All kinds of produce grown and harvested on the island were also on display, including eggplants, mangoes, yam, tomatoes, avocados, and betel nuts.

The event also featured exhibitor booths set up by the Natural Resources Conservation Office - Saipan Field Office, NMC-CREES, Marianas High School farming class, and the CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association, among others.

The top three winners for the 4-H Youth Division were Jeremiah S. Camacho, first place with 96 points; Ricardo C. Ada, second place with 44 points; and Isidoro Cabrera III with 42 points. The overall winners, on the other hand, were Delia Camacho, first place; Gregorio Calvo, second place; and Santiago Tudela, third place.

The local performing group called Alright Band provided live entertainment, broadcast live via KKMP.

SAFA 2012 president Calistro I. Reyes said in an interview that the community was able to appreciate the event because it was well-planned and well-coordinated.

"Our main goal was to get all farmers and ranchers to come out and show the best of their products and livestock," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*. "They not only enrich their families but also help build and play an important role in the growth of our economy in the islands. We now look forward to next year's fair."

Masseuse ordered released from jail

The federal court has ordered the release from jail of a masseuse who has been detained for over seven months now while awaiting sentencing in an immigration document fraud case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Thursday ordered the release of Lin Lin Song from the Department of Corrections.

Song's lawyer, Stephen Woodruff, had asked the court for his client's release pending sentencing. The U.S. government did not object to the request.

Manglona, however, set some conditions for Song's release to ensure that she will appear for her sentencing. These include keeping her passport with federal agencies and that she shall not obtain a new one, refrain from travel outside Saipan without court's permission, and obey all laws.

On Feb. 16, 2012, Song entered a guilty plea to count 2 of the indictment, charging her with immigration document fraud.

According to the indictment, Song lied in her application for adjustment of status with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services when she indicated that she is married to Steven Romie Aguon. In fact, Song is living with a different man, the indictment states.

Last February, Aguon pleaded guilty to immigration document fraud. He is awaiting sentencing.

Woodruff said his client has now been in custody for over seven months—a period longer than the top end of the sentencing guideline range. He said the applicable sentencing guideline range is zero to six months imprisonment.

"It really would not be fair to defendant to continue to hold her in custody," Woodruff said.

Once released, Woodruff said that Song will return to her job as a masseuse with Sterling Corp. as her employer has filed a petition for CW-1 status for her.

Woodruff noted that USCIS has scheduled Song to have her biometrics taken on May 24. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of May 03, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use application #2011-3552: Mr. Luisito Baltazar of the Church of God In Christ, Inc. dba Blessed Temple Christian Fellowship is proposing to operate a Church on residential lot 006 H 28 in Chalan Kanoa. This property is located on Chalan Kanoa Drive and within a Village Residential zoning district.
2. Conditional Use Appplication #2011-3730: Mr. Angelito Galang of GD Corp. dba Twinkle Brite Water Company is proposing to operate a manufacturing and processing facility for drinking water bottling and retail on lot #551-B-R1 in Afetna, San Antonio. This property is located in a Mixed Commercial zoning district.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Church of God in Christ, Inc.
(dba: Blessed Temple Christian Fellowship)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Luisito Baltazar is proposing to operate a Church on residential lot 006 H 28 in Chalan Kanoa. This property is located on Chalan Kanoa Drive and within a Village Residential zoning district.

Date:	**June 4, 2012, Monday**
Time:	**5:00 pm**
Place:	**Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 31, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

GD Corporation
(dba: Twinkle Brite Water Company)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Angelito Galang is proposing to operate a manufacturing and processing facility for drinking water bottling and retail on lot #551-B-R1 in Afetna, San Antonio. This property is located in a Mixed Commercial zoning district.

Date:	**June 4, 2012, Monday**
Time:	**5:00 pm**
Place:	**Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 31, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

A Memorial Day remembrance of peace activist soldiers

By DOUG BRADLEY
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

On Memorial Day, I remember some of the most ardent and intense peace enthusiasts: U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Take David Velasquez, a soldier I served with at U.S. Army Republic of Vietnam Headquarters at Long Binh, South Vietnam, in 1971.

Back then, he was Spc. 5 Velasquez, and he refused to accept a Bronze Star for bravery because he felt, rightly, that as a GI serving in the rear he didn't deserve it. In the process, he was labeled a malcontent and given a court-martial.

I think about David every Memorial Day, not because he is a fallen soldier but because he used to play his guitar in Vietnam, often leading us in sing-alongs. One of his favorites was *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* For me, that song strikes at the heart of Memorial Day and its historical connection to the flowers used to commemorate those who have died in America's wars.

We sang that song with gusto many nights in Vietnam, forgetting for a few brief moments where we were and that we, too, could be "gone to graveyards every one."

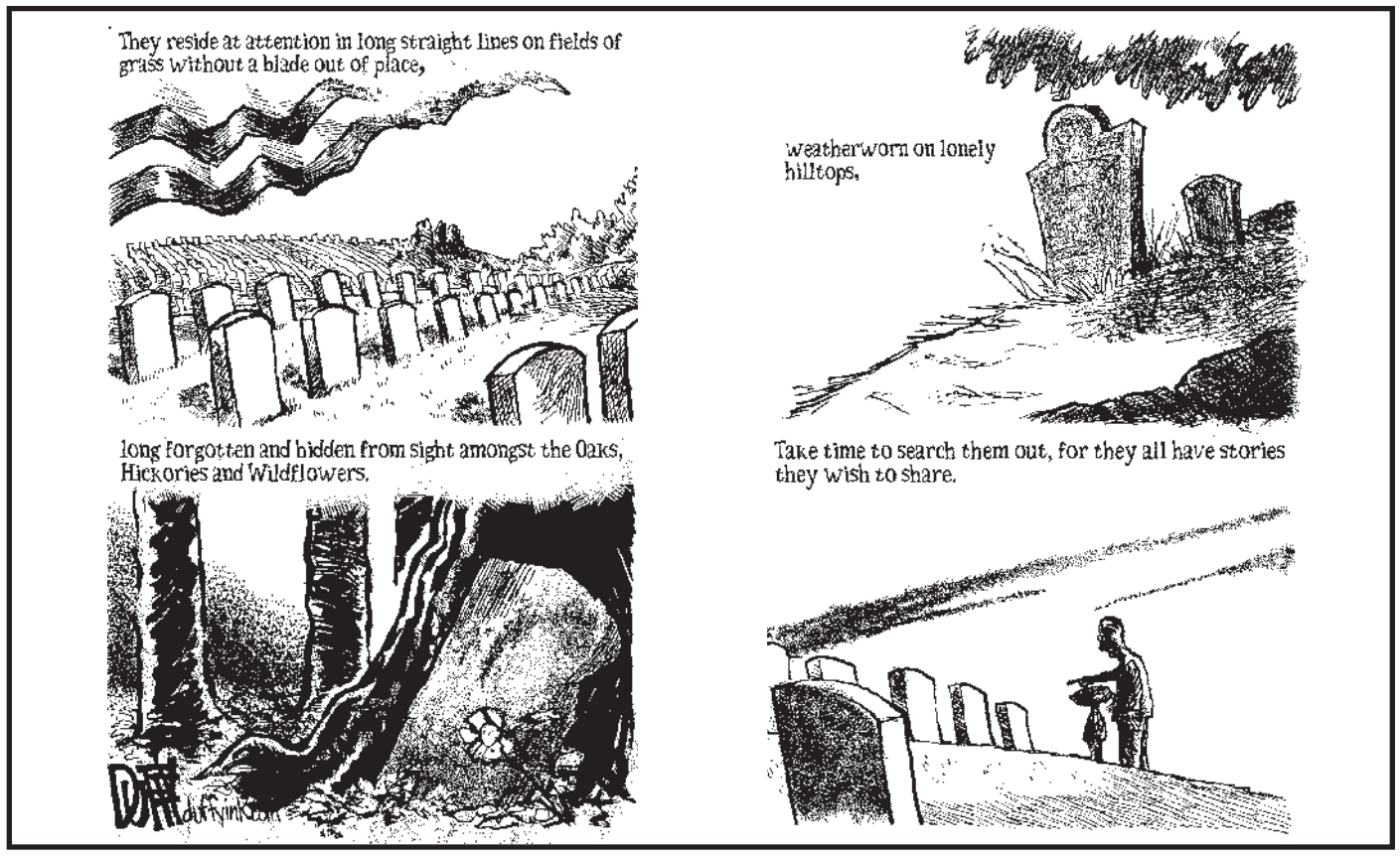
Of course, the song's refrain—"When will they ever learn?"—is apropos and haunting even today. When will we? How soon?

We are now waging war globally, and we have a responsibility to provide this generation of servicemen and women with alternatives to soldiering. Or, at the very least, we need to help them to understand and appreciate a peace movement that was alive and well within the military itself during the Vietnam War.

I also remember the Fort Hood 3: Pvts. James Johnson, Dennis Mora and David Samas, who refused to go to Vietnam in 1966. I remember, too, Capt. Howard Levy, who refused to keep training Green Beret medics that same year.

Along with David Velasquez, they showed me that you could be a soldier and a peace activist.

On Memorial Day, I still ask, as David did, "When will we ever learn?"


They reside at attention in long straight lines on fields of grass without a blade out of place,
long forgotten and hidden from sight amongst the Oaks, Hickories and Wildflowers.
weatherworn on lonely hilltops.
Take time to search them out, for they all have stories they wish to share.

Should I go to college or trade school?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

In a few weeks over 600 young men and women will be graduating from our high schools. Some of them will go to college and some will enlist in the military and the rest will either look hopefully for a job without any experience or training or just join the food stamp brigade. This seems to be a yearly problem facing thousands of students not only in the CNMI but also in the United States.

It seems that over the past years going to college for everyone has become a matter of political correctness. Schools have dropped almost all vocational courses from their system. It has become the fashion that every graduating student is expected to go to college whether he is fit or not.

Vocational education has fallen out of favor. In fact many schools consider students taking vocational education to be dumb and not fit to attend regular classroom studies. The end result of all of this morphing from valued vocational education to no vocational education has resulted in yearly increases in high school dropouts. As a result most high school dropouts are not prepared for the world of work. What a sad waste of youthful talent!

The unemployment rate for recent high school graduates who are not in a school of higher education is a high 33 percent. Consider the students that attend colleges—only about 40 percent of the students who enter them graduate. And two-year community colleges graduate less than that, about 23 percent! What happens to this huge number of dropouts without any skills or training?

According to Diane Ravitch, a professor of Education at New York University, "The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that less than a quarter of new job openings will require a bachelor of arts degree. We're not training our students for the jobs that actually exist." Meanwhile the U.S. has begun to run out of welders, glaziers, auto mechanics, and other necessary trades.

To many of us, trades people are considered of lower educational level. But is this necessarily true? Consider the time we were in high school. We studied algebra and other forms of abstract math. We also were introduced to the metric system. But did we ever apply any of this to practical work? Did we ever learn about the different materials that houses are built with? Did we ever learn anything of practical value about plumbing and electricity in our homes?

Now consider this: All of a sudden the plumbing in our home begins to leak badly, the wiring is old and shows signs of fraying, and the house could use a new paint job. Whom do we call? We call various trades people to do this work for us.

When they have finished they hand us an astronomical bill. After gasping for breath, we realize that they have earned in one or two days more than twice what we earn in the same period. Yet we are college graduates and they are not. How can this be?

How could this so-called uneducated trade guy measure the exact amount of paint to paint my house? How did he figure out the type of wiring that needed replacing? How did he learn to get the correct metric size plumbing fixtures? What would we do without trained vocational people to build and maintain our buildings and other surroundings?

Simply put: the vocational trades person has a practical knowledge that allows him to put into practice what we learned in school as abstract knowledge and never use. And, I may add, he is not worried about a 64-hour austerity pay period. He is too busy working full time.

How many of us really planned our lifetime job? Did we just take the first job offered to us? Are we enjoying the work we are doing? Is it rewarding financially and mentally stimulating? Do we take pride in our work? These and more questions like these are the ones we should discuss with graduating students.

Remember, one of the reasons we work is to make money to support ourselves and family. But more importantly, we should be engaged in work that is mentally satisfying. Think of the many people grudgingly trekking to work daily and sitting in their place of work just waiting for the clock to release them from their agony. So it goes for years until illness or retirement creeps in. Life has slipped by without tasting its sweetness. There is an old saying: Many people die at 25 but are not buried until 75. Guess the meaning.

No, college is not the answer to everyone's needs. Some of us who desire to be professionals such as lawyers, doctors, accountants, teachers, and other professions requiring a degree are the ones that should go to college. The rest of us who do not desire to enter any of these highly professional skills should seriously consider a vocational school where we can learn a respectful trade with a good salary.

Here is a quote from John Camacho Salas, Ph.D., Deputy Director of Education, Guam Public Schools and the founding president of the Guam Community College and the 7th president of the University of Guam: "As a college student, I had to learn to make money. …I needed skills. …I worked as a custodian, a hamburger fry cook. …I earned my degree in architectural drafting. That study of technical skills became the foundation for the 35 years of my professional life that I've spent as a trades educator."

Let me relate a personal account that is taking place now. I am in the process of dry docking my dinner cruise boat. Dry docking means to take the boat out of the water and repair it under U.S. Coast Guard supervision. Because I need skilled carpenters and other skilled labors, and could not find any local labors, I have had to hire all nonresident workers. Daily, as I watch them move skillfully cutting out the bad wood and replacing it with good lumber to exact dimensions, I notice that they move deftly, measuring and fitting each piece accurately.

I shake my head and say to myself: "What would I do without this skilled source of labor? What will all of us do without this skilled source of labor when it leaves?" Are these men uneducated because they do not have a college degree or are they educated in a different manner?

To all young men and women, if college is not your bag, consider learning a vocation or a trade. Here is a sampling of fast growing fields that do not require a bachelor's degree and their average earnings per year: Masonry helpers, $27,800; Iron/rebar workers, $38,400; welders, $53,910; electricians, $67,990; painters, $34,280; carpenters, $44,330. These wages will go up or down depending on the state you work in.

Yes, I can hear you saying: "But the minimum wage here doesn't

See **SHOULD** on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Qing Ming in America

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Memorial Day, the American federal holiday on the last Monday of May, marks the start of summer that culminates in Labor Day in September. Began in memorial to the American Civil War dead at first, for the Union soldier, and later to include the Confederate, it evolved as a solemn occasion to honor, salute, and celebrate lives snuffed prematurely, valiantly dying fighting for a cause.

The memorial expanded to include all soldiers who perished in all U.S. wars, even those who in peacetime died while in military service. Now, it has become what the Chinese has long observed during *Qing Ming* holiday, a simple remembering of those who we love who have gone before, those who we respect in our memory.

I promote the *Qing Ming* spirit in my oral English class through the *Titanic* movie soundtrack, *"My Heart Will Go On,"* from its promoted sentimental sob story line to the recognition of the normal emotion of loss. Celine Dion croons:

"Every night in my dreams, I see you, I feel you, that is how I know you go on. Far across the distance and spaces between us, you have come to show you go on.

Near, far, wherever you are, I believe that the heart does go on. Once more you open the door and you're here in my heart; and my heart will go on and on.

Love can touch us one time and last for a lifetime, and never let go till we're one. Love was when I loved you, one true time I hold to, in my life we'll always go on..."

China is undergoing a massive transformation where the primordial metaphors of English-speaking countries are echoed in the country's observed holidays. It is heartening to see it appropriating its own tradition. The Qing Ming was not observed after 1949 in the mainland though Taiwan, HK, and Singapore kept it in their books. Hu and Wen's Zhongguo restored it in 2008.

A Quaker acquaintance of Dutch Pennsylvania stock who teaches English at the university is being courted to have his Santa Claus image (white mane and beard with natural sumptuous girth) be marketed widely to promote consumer products. His quietist sense of simple honesty is proving too strong to allow himself to be just another glorified KFC Colonel Sanders! Lucrative offers accompany the temptation!

This past Christmas showed pictures and figurines of Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer harnessed to pull Santa's gift-laden sleigh through the abundant *Dong Bei* white snow. Mistletoes and bells, candles and poinsettias graced storefront doors and windows, with *Jingle Bell Rock* playing in the background. One could easily pretend one is in the Great Mall of the Americas in Minneapolis! Never mind that the religious essence of Christ-mass was missing; the transference of holidays is not along cultural lines as it is in the commercial bottom line.

America and the West are already in China, with many of its forms in gaudy attire, from Burberry of London to the Cowboys of Houston and the carolers of Pasadena. But the Qing Ming spirit of China is observed in cemeteries of Hispanic Asia (All Souls/Saints Say), and here occurs the confluence of Memorial Day honoring the fallen while merging with a pause to be present to the memory of the dead. The word "Qing Ming" means "treading on the greenery," denoting a time for people to go outside and enjoy the freshness of springtime as well as attend to the graves of the departed.

It was the practice in the American South to hold potluck dinners on church grounds, and since cemeteries were beside the country chapels, the segue to honor the dead came easy. This continued with Memorial Day, though the event is now observed in the more secular and rowdy surroundings of the ballpark and the beach. In America, it includes the running of the Indianapolis 500, not unlike the fanfare of the running of the bulls in Spain, though in this case the bulls are steel-cased in high-octane engines and spectators stay in the bleachers!

Death is a dreaded subject in the West with its mind addicted to eternity; time-in-memorial is cherished. The *Qing Ming,* however, is more rooted on the taste of the temporal expressed in the aesthetics of space. Time as here-and-after is celebrated in available here-and-now of location.

Ancestors are not treated as ghoulish souls or disembodied spirits. They are, in fact, offered actual food. Paper money is burned (fake ones are now printed since it is illegal to burn the actual paper currency) to physically accompany the departed to wherever spatial dimension they may be lodged. Life after, in Chinese imagination, is in the realm of the temporal. This makes the memorialized subjects be more accessible and real.

Of course, much of America today will hear of abstract nobility of heroism saluting the patriotic image of Pentagon in uniform. But Memorial Day is a holiday of spilled flesh-and-blood, about simple and often naive people who take on megalomaniac orders of so-called superiors, and in the process, give up their lives. But as the old grunt saying goes, "We do not die for the notion of country, freedom and democracy; we die in the mutual protection of our comrade-in-arms."

The hearts of Juan and Juana de la Cruz will go on. Honor, salute, and celebrate their memory today.

Estorian Apacha' yan Odut

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Guaha un' estoria pot apacha' yan odut. Mileksion maseha pagu 'sino gi otru okasion siha. Brabu i apacha', sige gumupu yan gumupot maseha manu 'nai tumunog. I edut animu man-umpañg 'an soblan neñkanu siha para i liyañgña siakassu na mattu mattiempu.

Ti apmam, mattu i tiempun pagyu. Sige i edut chumochu yan dumeskansa. I apacha sige ha lasa estomaguña ni ñalañgña. Ha atrebi mamaisen neñgkanu' lau ti malago' i edut man-nae'.

Gi bandan moralidat, i apacha' ayu na patte giya hita i banidosu, impitosu, kabron ya ayu ha' tiniñgoña i para u magof. Ha apprubecha finacho'chu' i otru sin u tulusgue' humotnat maseha para guiya mismu. Ha lachaigue' muna' tailaye ni banidosuña.

I edut i humidde na patte ni mas animu macho'chu' yan gef manadahe. Ti dispetdesiau gi finachucho'ña sa' ha masahalume. Mas antau kinalamteña sa' ha fachuch'e todu guinahañña.

Magahet na apmam man-mama' apacha' hit piot gi tiempon abundansia. Memegaiña dispetdisiu ke mana' sahñge para 'an tafagchae' chinatsaga 'sino mattiempu tat kumu ha'ilas. Man-gaige hit gi este na patte i pagyun ha'ilas. Dididi' atrasau i sinetsut dispetdisiu.

Lau maseha ta padedese pagu diskuiduta, maila' ta pasensiaye este na estau sa' ni unu duda na man-tautau hit. Siempre didog na leksion ta eyag ginen hagas diskuidau yan dispetdisiau na finaposta.

Tafan asustene unu yan otru sa' este na mattiempu lamegai na troñku yan tinanom siha gi hatdin familiata u fan tinemba.

■■■■

Tuñgu' Achaiguamu

Seguruyu' na guaha 'nai ta huñgog i mañainata ma-mensiona ayu na palabra i "achaigua". Pot ihemplu: kau achaiguamu i mañainamu na para un' disatentuye lau patgon hau?

I otru, guaha amiguhu ha fachalegña dumisfruta na ti Yuus si Jesukristu. Mampos hana' tristeyu' fino'ña sa' ha placha'e i ti achaiguaña. Inipos na finu' tramposu, disatenteria yan banida.

Na'mase' sa' yangin ti mauleg finaposña gi finenina na relihioña, tat seguru na u felis gi segundu biahe. Lau ti ha lie' este na finatsu giya guiya ya taya' mas ha fafama i lachen relihion katolisismu. Hu konsidedera hafa mohon para u sañgan i man-mauleg ni man-hanau esta na mañainaña.

Hu lie' fuetsan tinayuyot kumu kilisyanu. Hu lie' lokue' na dispues de mas mauleg na mediku ya ti homlu' i malañgu, pues i uttimu konsuelumu i ayudu 'sino disposision i Saina. Gi todu biahe, hanae'yu' i Saina yan patronhu ni ginagagauhu. Estague' tumulaika ha'anihu dispues de trenta'i tantus años na katoliku.

Guseña bai' lacha'yu' gi hilu humidde umuga yine'ase' i Saina. Mafattu este na diniseha piot 'nai umenutet hau ya guaha na biahe 'nai un' konsidera kau un' gaige tumagam i kinahulu' i atdau agupa? Kau i mamamaila' bendision pat matdision?

I amiguhu u hanau lau ni ñgai'an 'nai u soda' talu ginefsagaña. Lokue', yangin unu hau na patgon ni ti siña un' onra i mañainamu segun i indetdin i Saina, pues ni hagu ti un' soda futtunamu.

Mauleg tana' guaha pinasensia piot gi asuntu siha ni ti achaiguata. Chatpagu mampos i kustumbren apacha' gi katkuet manera. Maulegña un' natunog i añklan espirituat para muñga inasa gi halom tai fondu na tasi. Chogue mientras guaguaha tiempomu.

■■■■

Abarambau Na Kinalamten

I duron uchan yan satpon gi mapos na semana kulan hana' freskon ñaihon oriyata. Ha sede hit lumipa mamakatña gi hinassota. Mientras man-e'ensinahyau hit na u mauleg i mensahe gi halom freskon mañglu', ti tinilaika i didog na estotbu yan trompison siha ni mangatdon gi halom sisomyan chinatsaga.

Makat na kontrariu i un' tuñgu' na siempre un' finatoigue mas chatsaga na karera ni finañagu ni mismu diskuiduta deste antes. Tantu de ta letke, estague' pagu na sige mage kulan mañiñila' na milag achu' botkan. Kontodu hita siempre ta-testeguye ennau na finatton milag guafe. Dispues, ti siña tana' para finatton ennau na iran diskuidu.

Mauleg in' prepara hamyu siakassu na ha fatoigue hit i mañiñila' na milag guafen botkan. Lamegai para u fan mamadese ginen diskuidun man-ma'gasta mina kontiempu hu abibisa hamyu na inna' guaha inadahe yan preparasion.

SHOULD

From Page 10

allow for that kind of wages." Okay, so move away. Or start your own small labor craft company and you will definitely earn that much or even more. I know because I did exactly that in Hawaii for 10 years prior to coming to Saipan.

The technical skills that students need can be learned at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. This institute gives the students long-term advantages, skills, and they are also advantageous to our islands.

I quote from Dr. Salas again: "The issue of building a local skilled labor force is one that we all need to work together to solve. If we can't find a solution, then we are the problem, and our community needs to synchronize our efforts to reach that Holy Grail of a permanent, local base of skilled labor."

So let's ask the question again: Should I go to college or should I go to a trade school? Only years down the road will we know the correct choice. Will we have pride in whatever work we will be doing or will we have cheated ourselves because of our lack of foresight? Help the graduating students to decide.

Remember to make at least three people *smile* daily! Have a great week!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Be careful what you wish for

Attention retirees and current government employees: Here's a bit of speculation on Social Security as a possible answer. Some retirees believe, wrongly, that moving to Social Security will be a replacement for their NMI retirement income. Not so. There is no way that the CNMI Retirement Fund can make the necessary contributions to Social Security to make up for a lifetime of contributing for all those in the Retirement Fund. If it does happen, there would probably be some Social Security income, but probably in the hundreds per month, at a guess. One may search the Social Security website (http://www.socialsecurity.gov/) for many types of information.

I researched two questions: What is the average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker? The average monthly (not bimonthly) Social Security benefit for a retired worker was about $1,230 at the beginning of 2012. This amount changes monthly based upon the total amount of all benefits paid and the total number of people receiving benefits. This applies to an average income person who has worked their entire life and who has had Social Security contributions deducted from their salary their entire working life. Average means half the people get below this number. See http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/13/~/average-monthly-social-security-benefit-for-a-retired-worker.

What is the maximum monthly Social Security retirement benefit? The maximum benefit depends on the age a worker chooses to retire. For example, for a worker retiring at age 66 in 2012, the amount is $2,513 (monthly, not bimonthly). This figure is based on earnings at the maximum taxable amount for every year after age 21. This maximum for 2012 of taxable earnings is $110,100... and for previous years prorated to 2012 dollars. (http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/5/~/maximum-social-security-retirement-benefit)

It helps to actually put those numbers in perspective. Probably nobody will get the maximum, and most below the average. Be careful what you ask for.

Angie Sills
Arizona, United States

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

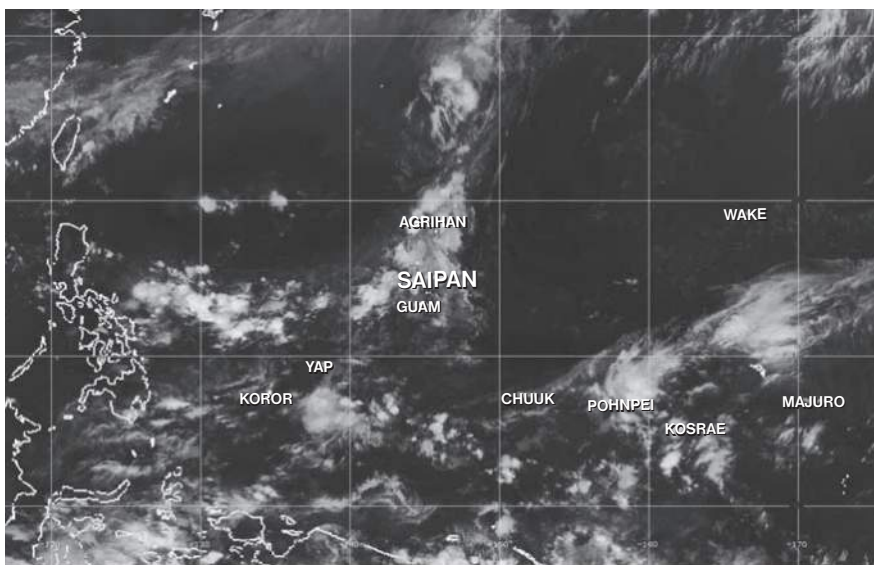
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲79	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲77	▼67
Osaka	Showers	▲75	▼58
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼61
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼56
Salem	Cloudy	▲62	▼42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼60
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲68	▼59
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Sanvu (03W) is centered at 29N144E. A surface trough extends southward from Typhoon Sanvu to north of Yap at 10N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms reach southward from Sanvu across the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 25N146E to 13N145E. Scattered showers are located north of Yap between 15N and 10N from 130E to 143E. Convergent low-level winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 2N137E to 7N141E. A surface trough runs southeastward from 10N146E to EQ157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located west of Chuuk between 12N and 7N from 143E to 150E. Similar weather is found south of Chuuk or south of a line from 4N148E to 3N158E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei but south of Kosrae within 110 miles of a line from 7N158E to 4N164E to 5N168E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers north of Kwajalein within 80 miles of a line from 13N167E to 9N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
12:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:37 AM	
Tuesday	12:30 PM	12:13 AM
Wednesday	1:25 PM	12:56 AM
Thursday	2:22 PM	1:39 AM
Friday	3:22 PM	2:26 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
				UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
				0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

29th Saipan Agricultural Fair

Photos by CLARISSA V. DAVID

Agriculturist Isidoro T. Cabrera, right, is joined by members of his Basic Farming students from Marianas High School during the 29th Saipan Agricultural Fair held Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Children pet one of the goats at the event.

Two boys and a girl look at a chicken.

Manabat sisters Keziah and Alejandra are drawn to the giant tilapia at the booth of the CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association.

Rep. Stanley Torres, right, gestures as he talks to Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, former secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

The Alright Band entertains the crowd.

Dr. Allan Sabaldica of the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, center, demonstrates to pig growers the proper way of castrating a young pig.

Young members of the community check out the cattle pen.

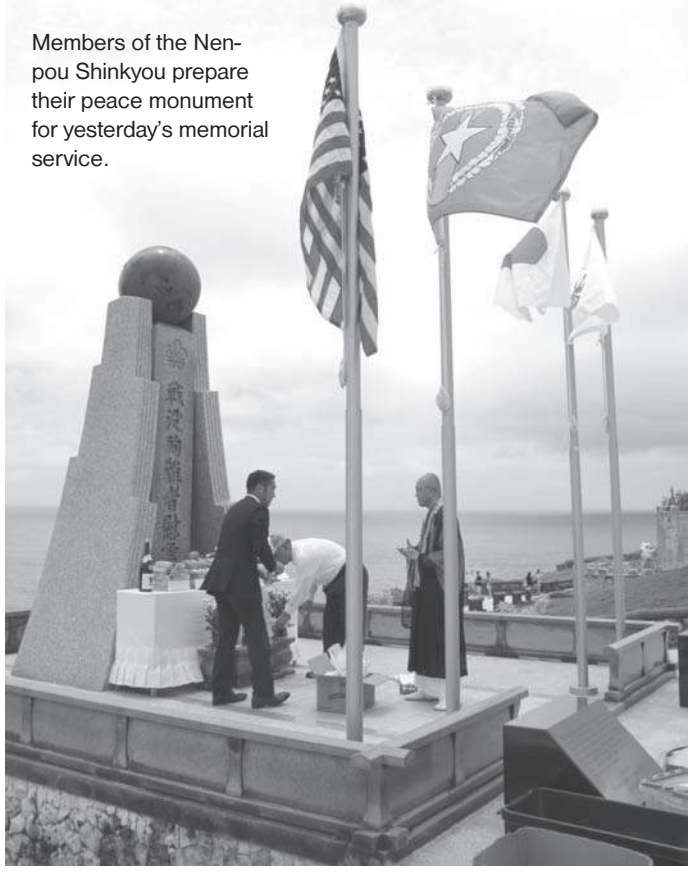
Nenpou Shinkyou Peace Memorial

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

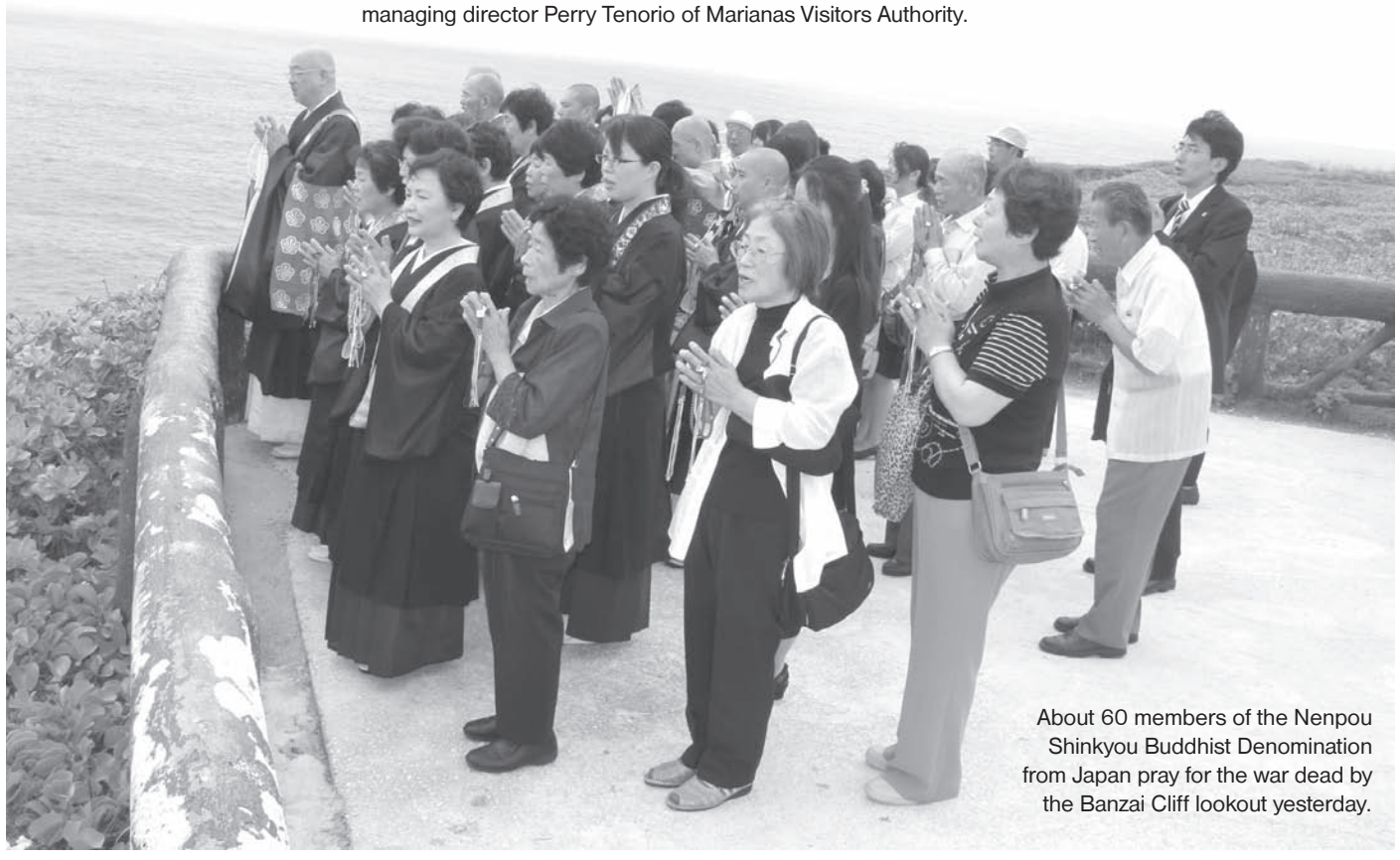
CNMI government officials join members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination for a group photo following a peace memorial service yesterday morning in honor of the 55,000 individuals of different nationalities who died on Saipan during World War II.

Nenpou Shinkyou high priest Ryoyu Okeya, fourth left, is flanked by managing director Perry Tenorio of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Eagle's Willie and Aya Matsumoto, and other members of the visiting group from Japan after their cleanup activity in Marpi on Saturday morning.

High priest Ryoyu Okeya of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination, second left, receives the commemorative resolution from Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores. Also in photo are Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and managing director Perry Tenorio of Marianas Visitors Authority.



Members of the Nenpou Shinkyou prepare their peace monument for yesterday's memorial service.



About 60 members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination from Japan pray for the war dead by the Banzai Cliff lookout yesterday.

Business

Typical CEO made $9.6M last year, AP study finds

By CHRISTINA REXRODE and BERNARD CONDON
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—Profits at big U.S. companies broke records last year, and so did pay for CEOs.

The head of a typical public company made $9.6 million in 2011, according to an analysis by The Associated Press using data from Equilar, an executive pay research firm.

That was up more than 6 percent from the previous year, and is the second year in a row of increases. The figure is also the highest since the AP began tracking executive compensation in 2006.

Companies trimmed cash bonuses but handed out more in stock awards. For shareholder activists who have long decried CEO pay as exorbitant, that was a victory of sorts.

That's because the stock awards are being tied more often to company performance. In those instances, CEOs can't cash in the shares right away: They have to meet goals first, like boosting profit to a certain level.

The idea is to motivate CEOs to make sure a company does well and to tie their fortunes to the company's for the long term. For too long, activists say, CEOs have been richly rewarded no matter how a company has fared—"pay for pulse," as some critics call it.

To be sure, the companies' motives are pragmatic. The corporate world is under a brighter, more uncomfortable spotlight than it was a few years ago, before the financial crisis struck in the fall of 2008.

Last year, a law gave shareholders the right to vote on whether they approve of the CEO's pay. The vote is nonbinding, but companies are keen to avoid an embarrassing "no."

"I think the boards were more easily shamed than we thought they were," says Stephen Davis, a shareholder expert at Yale University, referring to boards of directors, which set executive pay.

In the past year, he says, "Shareholders found their voice."

The typical CEO got stock awards worth $3.6 million in 2011, up 11 percent from the year before. Cash bonuses fell about 7 percent, to $2 million.

The value of stock options, as determined by the company, climbed 6 percent to a median $1.7 million. Options usually give the CEO the right to buy shares in the future at the price they're trading at when the options are granted, so they're worth something only if the shares go up.

Profit at companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index rose 16 percent last year, remarkable in an economy that grew more slowly than expected.

CEOs managed to sell more, and squeeze more profit from each sale, despite problems ranging from a downgrade of the U.S. credit rating to an economic slowdown in China and Europe's neverending debt crisis.

Still, there wasn't much immediate benefit for the shareholders. The S&P 500 ended the year unchanged from where it started. Including dividends, the index returned a slender 2 percent.

Shareholder activists, while glad that companies are moving a bigger portion of CEO pay into stock awards, caution that the rearranging isn't a cure-all.

For one thing, companies don't have to tie stock awards to performance. Instead, they can make the awards automatically payable on a certain date—meaning all the CEO has to do is stick around.

Top CEO pay equals 3,489 years for typical worker

WASHINGTON (AP)—David Simon of Simon Property received a pay package worth more than $137 million for last year, and the typical CEO took home $9.6 million, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

Here are some ways to think about just how much money those salaries represent.

Simon's $137 million is almost entirely in stock awards that could eventually be worth $132 million. The company said it wanted to make sure Simon wasn't lured to another company.

HOW LONG IT TAKES OTHERS TO MAKE THAT MUCH: A minimum wage worker—paid $7.25 per hour, as some workers at Simon malls are—would have to work one month shy of 9,096 years to make what Simon made last year. A person making the national median salary, $39,312 by AP calculations, would have to work 3,489 years.

BY THE HOUR: Assuming Simon worked a 60-hour week, his pay was $43,963.64 per hour, or $732.73 per minute. To put that in perspective, the minimum-wage worker would have to labor for nearly three years to make what Simon earns in an hour. The average U.S. worker makes slightly less in one year than Simon makes in an hour.

COMPARED WITH AMERICA'S CEO: Simon makes about 342 times the $400,000 annual salary of President Barack Obama. In fact, if you add the salaries of Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court justices, all the members of the Senate and House of Representatives and all 50 governors, it is less than $110 million, so Simon makes well more than government's top 600 leaders. In the past 100 years, U.S. taxpayers have paid a total of $80.6 million, adjusted for inflation, to presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Obama.

The median CEO salary of $9.587 million:

HOW LONG IT TAKES OTHERS TO MAKE THAT MUCH: A minimum wage worker would have to work 636 years to make that much. A person making the national average salary would have to work 244 years to make the median CEO salary.

BY THE HOUR: If you assume the CEO works a 60-hour week, the pay comes to $3,072.84 per hour, or $51.21 per minute. To put that in perspective, the minimum wage worker would have to labor more than 10 weeks to make what the median CEO earns in an hour. It would take the average U.S. worker nearly a month to make what the average CEO makes in an hour.

COMPARED WITH AMERICA'S CEO: The CEO who made the median salary took in 12 times the total $789,674 in gross income that President Obama reported last year. But it is less than half the $20.9 million in income that presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney reported in his tax filing.

Embittered Facebook stock investors ponder next move

By CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

To say that Facebook's debut as a public company was bungled is something like saying Facebook is a website you might have heard of.

Either way, a colossal understatement.

The response from small-time investors has been equal parts frustration, confusion and bitterness. Fed up, some are dumping their shares and accepting the losses. Others, while miffed, are holding on and hoping to ride the stock's eventual success.

Some blame themselves for embracing the hype over a company whose underlying value likely didn't merit the price at which it went public. But many accuse Facebook and its underwriting banks of setting the price too high and for trying to sell too many shares.

Others are pointing fingers at the Nasdaq stock market for botching buy and sell orders on opening day. Or they're angry over brokers who pushed them to buy.

And others are irked over reports that Morgan Stanley, which guided Facebook through its public debut, told only some select clients of an analyst's negative report about Facebook before its stock began trading May 18.

Michael Hines had felt uneasy about Facebook. He thought the shares were priced too high, and the excitement overblown—especially once the company raised its target price for the opening two days beforehand. Yet when the chance arose to buy into the company's $38-a-share initial public offering, he seized it.

"I figured: Nothing ventured, nothing gained," said Hines, 61, a retiree and private investor in Boston.

Now, he wishes he'd listened to his misgivings. Instead, Hines watched with dismay as the stock languished on its first day, then slid on its second. On Tuesday, determined to unburden himself of a nagging headache, he sold his shares at $32.76, taking a loss on his investment. He declined to say how many shares he'd bought.

"I was upset with myself for having been drawn into it," Hines said. "I knew it was grossly overpriced. I could feel it a couple of days before."

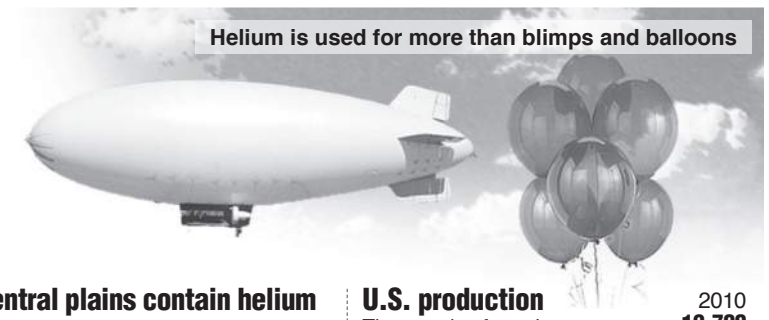
His son, Brad, also bought shares on the first day, at about $40.50, and was also irritated—with himself and with the investment banks that priced the shares.

As the lead underwriter for Facebook's IPO, Morgan Stanley was expected to set shares at the highest price it thinks the market will bear. But investors have also come to expect that an initial share price will be low enough so the stock can climb on the first day, when interest typically peaks.

"With a good IPO, the investment banks leave room for the pop," said Hines, a social media consultant. "They didn't do that in this case."

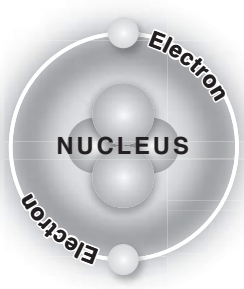
Helium shortage could spell trouble

The U.S.'s stockpile of the rare and nonrenewable gas is dwindling. Some are blaming a 1996 order by Congress to sell off reserves at prices lower than market rate, a policy enacted to repay debt incurred since 1925 by the government in creating the Federal Helium Reserve.


Helium is used for more than blimps and balloons

What is helium?

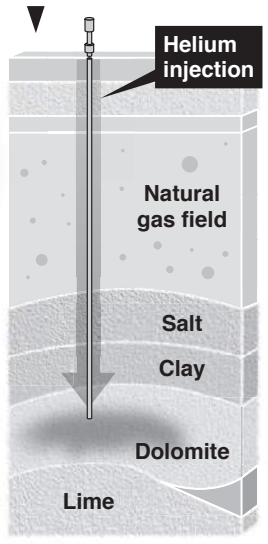
• Helium is an element with two electrons orbiting a two-proton nucleus including one or two neutrons, most commonly in a gaseous state

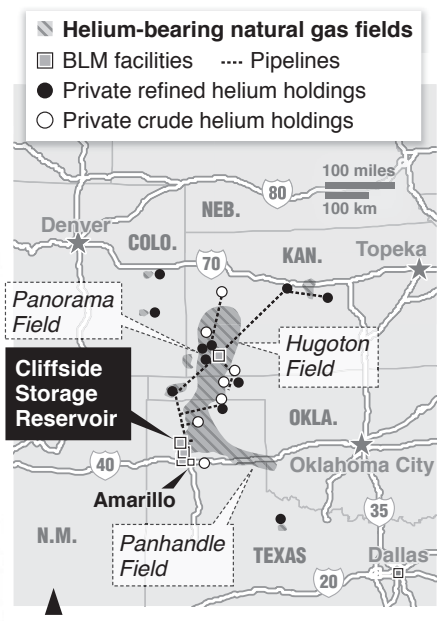


• In space, helium is created from the stellar fusion of hydrogen; on Earth it is a byproduct of radioactive decay and is found trapped underground along with natural gas

Natural gas fields under U.S. central plains contain helium

Helium is extracted from natural gas deposits and injected into a subsurface formation called the **Bush Dome**, where layers of rock contain it

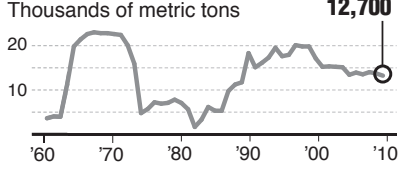




Bush Dome is capped by the **Cliffside Storage Reservoir,** which is administered by the Bureau of Land Management

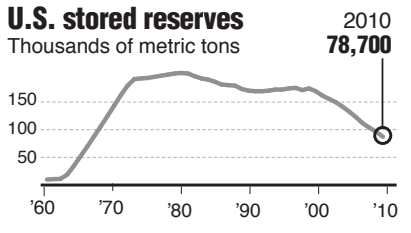
U.S. production

Thousands of metric tons

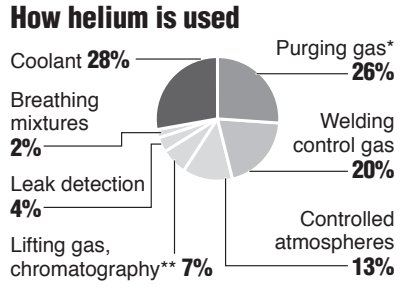


U.S. stored reserves

Thousands of metric tons



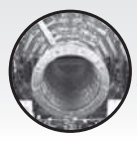
How helium is used



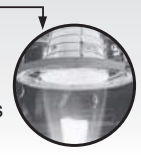
Helium crucial to industry, research, medicine, defense

Coolant in liquid form or in a superconductor, in machines such as ...

◄ MRI scanners


◄ Particle accelerators

Purges gas in rocket engine systems



Used in some arc welding processes

Creates stable breathing mixtures in diving equipment

*Clear storage tanks of other gases or fuels **Gas chromatography is an analytical method of separating chemical components from a solution

Graphic: Robert Dorrell

Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Geological Survey, National Academy of Sciences, Bureau of Land Management, American Blimp Corp., NASA, MCT Photo Service

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Nation

Cheaper gas spurs more travelers this Memorial Day

NEW YORK (AP)—More Americans will hit the road this holiday weekend than a year ago. And they'll have a bit more money to spend thanks to lower gas prices.

Memorial Day kicks off the summer travel season, and since pump prices never reached $4 or $5 a gallon, as feared, economists says travelers are likely to dine out or shop more once they pull off the road.

About 30.7 million people will drive more than 50 miles for Memorial Day trips, according to auto club AAA. That's 400,000 more than last year, a jump AAA attributes to improvement in the economy and consumer attitudes. The number of holiday travelers grows to 34.8 million when you include planes, trains and other means of transportation.

A drop in gas prices encouraged Americans to spend more at restaurants and bars in April. And that trend could continue over the holiday. Pump prices are down 27 cents since their peak in early April, to $3.67 a gallon, where they're likely to stay this weekend, predicts Tom Kloza, the chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. That's 12 cents cheaper than last year. Over the weekend, U.S. drivers will burn about 1.2 billion gallons of gasoline—and spend $144 million less on gas than last year.

Restaurants, movie theaters and retailers hope some of that savings goes to them. Just last month, AAA and IHS Global Insight, the firm that analyzed the AAA study, were expecting travelers to spend less on entertainment, dining and shopping on vacation and devote more time to family and friends. .

Now, travelers might take longer trips or spend more on other things "because there's more money left in their pocket," says John Larson, vice president for IHS.

Still, most people need to restrict their travel budgets. For many, incomes are growing slightly if at all. Household debt remains high. And although the increase in the stock market over the past year has helped some regain wealth lost in the recession, there is still a ways to go. A recent report from the Federal Reserve shows that American household wealth would have to rise by 13 percent to return to pre-recession levels.

AP

Madeline Grace Wallace, 4, carries flags at the National Cemetery in Little Rock, Ark., Friday, May 25, 2012. The girl and her mother visited the cemetery to place flags on graves for Memorial Day.

While drivers may feel relief at the pump, gas still isn't cheap. Besides last year, the only other time gas was more expensive on Memorial Day was 2008, when it eventually climbed to a record of $4.11 per gallon. This year, gas shot up by 66 cents from January through early April because of a spike in oil prices.

As a result, many people were skittish about planning long road trips. Half of those surveyed by AAA said they'll travel less than 400 miles. They might be tempted to drive farther—a fill up costs about $4 to $5 less than in early April when gas peaked at an average of $3.94. But they'll burn through that savings after about 30 to 40 miles.

Douglas Berkley, Jr., of Cranberry Township, Pa. drives his family 90 miles to a family house on Indian Lake in Shanksville, Pa. most summer weekends, including Memorial Day. He hasn't noticed much of a drop in prices—it still costs him about $80 to fill his Chevy Tahoe. "Any little bit helps, though, obviously," he says.

How far people travel might also depend on where they live. The difference in gas prices around the country is far wider than normal this year, Kloza says. In states like South Carolina, drivers could be paying as low as $3.10. Meanwhile, refinery problems on the West Coast—where prices usually exceed the national average anyway—have kept prices especially high there. West Coast drivers could be paying as much as $4.50 per gallon this weekend.

Thom Rasmussen of Battle Ground, Wash. would have driven 100 miles southwest to Lincoln City, Oregon and rented a hotel near the coast. Except that gas has risen to $4.33 per gallon where he lives. The retired truck maker now plans to "rent a bunch of movies" with his wife. He'll consider making the trip this summer if gas falls below $4.

Shock over arrest in NYC boy's '79 disappearance

By DAVID B. CARUSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—When police dug up a Manhattan basement last month in a fruitless search for the remains of Etan Patz, a 6-year-old boy who disappeared in 1979, Lucy Suarez saw the news on TV and wished that the family of the missing child would finally get some peace.

"My sister and I prayed about it. We prayed and we said, `Let justice be done,'" Suarez said. "Never did we think it was going to be done with our family."

On Friday, her older brother was charged with Etan's murder.

Police said Pedro Hernandez, a 51-year-old, churchgoing father described by some friends as quiet and timid, had given an emotional confession earlier in the week to luring the little boy away from his school bus stop with a promise of a soft drink, and then strangling him in the basement of a convenience store where he had been working as a stock clerk.

The admission surprised investigators, who had been confounded by the disappearance for three decades and never considered Hernandez a suspect until this month. Just weeks ago, they had focused their attention on another man, and even ripped up a basement he had once used as a workshop in the hope of finding clues.

AP

This undated file image provided Friday, May 28, 2010 by Stanley K. Patz shows a flyer distributed by the New York Police Department of Patz's son Etan who vanished in New York on May 25, 1979.

Suarez said her family is reeling, too, despite having had concerns for years that her brother had once done something bad to a child.

Hernandez, now living in Maple Shade, N.J., was 18 when Etan vanished. When he moved to New Jersey not long after the disappearance, he said something to relatives about having hurt a child back in New York.

Suarez said her brother never spoke to her directly about what had happened, and the family's knowledge of the incident was vague.

"He didn't say, `I killed somebody,'" she said. "My conclusion was that it was a hit and run, or he hit someone with a bike. Nothing like a murder."

Suarez said she was shocked to find out about his arrest early Thursday, but another of the suspect's sisters, Norma Hernandez, said at least some relatives had heard something far more horrifying about what he had done.

In the 1980s, she said, Pedro had confessed to a church prayer group that he had killed a boy. Norma Hernandez said she didn't have firsthand knowledge of this confession, and didn't learn about it until later. If she had known, she said, she would have turned her brother in.

"Even if it is my own child I will go to the police station and say, `You'd better check them out,'" she said. "I'd consider the mother and her child and her wondering what happened to her child."

The people who heard him confess "should've said something even if it wasn't true," she said.

A defense lawyer told a judge Friday that Hernandez suffered from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and had a history of hallucinations. Suarez said she knew her brother had been taking psychiatric medications, but said she didn't think he had been debilitated by mental illness, and wasn't aware that he had been hallucinating. She also said she had never thought him to be capable of murder.

"My brother was not a monster like that. I don't know him like that," she said. Suarez said she was still holding out hope that her brother's confession might be false, prompted by a delusion, fueled by the media attention to the case.

"If he did do it, God will have justice," she said. Suarez said she would continue to pray for Etan's parents, Stanley and Julie Patz. "I would like to have a chance to meet them and apologize to them, whether my brother is guilty, or not."

Well-wishers left flowers, candles and dolls Saturday outside the New York City building that once housed the bodega where police said Etan died.

Etan's parents, who still live two blocks from the spot where he vanished, had a note on their door Saturday saying they weren't commenting about the case.

Break in Patz brings hope, tears to other families

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

After 33 years, someone has confessed to killing 6-year-old Etan Patz. And people immediately start speaking of "closure."

Patty Wetterling hates the word.

Since 1989, she and her husband have writhed in the same hell as Stan and Julie Patz. Whatever path they might have been on, it was irrevocably altered that October evening when a masked man walked away with their 11-year-old boy, Jacob.

"Once you're a victim of a crime like this, your life takes a very different direction," the St. Joseph, Minn., woman says. "It doesn't really close anything, because everything just became different from that point on. But it does provide answers."

Thanks to the wonders of modern computer graphics, these parents can watch their children "age"—digitally, at least. But no one can write a program capable of generating the milestones—high school graduation, college, marriage, parenthood—that come along with growing up.

Some, like Mike and Maddi Misheloff of Dublin, Calif., exist in a kind of suspended animation, unwilling to move or even redecorate the lost one's bedroom.

Many, like the Patzes, live with the "what ifs." What if they hadn't given in to his "please," hadn't let him make his first solo walk to the school bus stop that May day in 1979?

A few suffer under a cloud of suspicion themselves—like Judy Moore of Jackson, Ky., whose 6-year-old son, Kelly, disappeared in 1982 while playing in the snow.

Back when Etan vanished, authorities put the children's faces on milk cartons. Today, their names and images flash across the Internet and digital highway signs.

It is a horrifying truth that the best some families can hope for is that their child is being held against their will, says activist John Walsh.

Before her rescue in 2009, Jaycee Dugard was repeatedly raped and gave birth to two daughters during 18 years of captivity at the hands of a known sex offender in California. Still, her mother could eventually put her arms around her again, says Walsh, host of television's "America's Most Wanted."

"Against all hope and reality, every now and then a child comes back alive," says Walsh, whose 6-year-old son, Adam, was abducted from a Florida department store in July 1981 and murdered. "So that's why these people keep their rooms and their phone numbers, because it's part of the staying mentally sane. It's part of the being able to cope with the worst possible thing that could ever happen to you—your beautiful, loving child disappears."

Through his show, Walsh has helped capture more than 1,200 criminals and bring home about 60 missing children. He knows the Patzes and has shared their heartache each time a lead evaporated, and one "breakthrough" after another ended in disappointment.

Asia

Japan minister visits nuke plant amid safety worry

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Goshi Hosono, Japan's environment and nuclear minister, third from left, wearing a red helmet, along with members of the media, walks on the No. 4 reactor building at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s (TEPCO) Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Fukushima prefecture, Japan, Saturday, May 26, 2012.

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's environment and nuclear minister visited the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant on Saturday to inspect a spent fuel pool at the center of safety concerns and said it appeared to have been properly reinforced.

The visit by Goshi Hosono, apparently aimed at demonstrating the safety of the facility, came amid renewed concerns about conditions at the plant's No. 4 reactor after its operator reported a bulging of the building's wall. Nuclear regulators ordered a new investigation and seismic tests of the building and its pool.

The building was damaged by an explosion and fire soon after the Fukushima plant was hit by a massive magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011. The pool, located at the top of the building above the reactor, remains one of the plant's biggest risks due to its vulnerability to earthquakes.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., has reinforced the structure and says it now can withstand temblors as strong as last year's quake.

A small group of journalists was allowed to enter the reactor building for the first time with Hosono. Inside were piles of broken wall panels, pieces of cement and mangled equipment, showing the magnitude of the explosion.

Hosono, wearing protective coveralls and a full-face mask, climbed a narrow makeshift staircase to the fifth floor to see the pool, which was covered with a protective tarp. TEPCO officials lifted part of the cover to show the water surface.

He said he was not able to see the newly found 3 centimeter (1 inch) outward bulge in the building's wall with his own eyes, but urged TEPCO "not to take an optimistic view and instead deal with it carefully in order to ensure safety."

Hosono later told reporters that he could see that the pool had been sufficiently reinforced.

"I could see steady progress being made toward removal of the spent fuel (from the pool), which is the next major goal," he said.

The fuel rods in the storage pool are not enclosed as they are in reactor cores and could cause a greater release of radiation in case of a loss of water.

TEPCO is preparing to move the fuel rods from the pool to a joint pool for all six reactors next to the building, but the process won't start until late next year. The joint pool is located on the ground level and is considered safer, even though it already has 6,000 fuel rods in it, officials said. It is expected to take 40 years to decommission the reactors.

Akio Komori, one of the TEPCO executives who escorted Hosono, said the company will inspect the No. 4 building to ensure its integrity while continuing with the fuel removal. Komori, however, rejected growing calls to allow outside experts to inspect the plant's safety.

"As the party with direct responsibility, it's our job to carry out the necessary checks," he said.

From early on, experts have raised concerns about the pool at the No. 4 reactor, where 1,535 fuel rods—the most of any of Fukushima's six reactors—were stored because the reactor was undergoing major refurbishing and the fuel ordinarily inside its core was also kept in the pool.

U.S. nuclear officials feared the fuel rods would overheat and melt as water evaporated from the pool.

The pool had enough water to cover the rods, but officials recently said they might have been saved by chance.

When the disaster struck, two additional pools next to the fuel storage pool had been temporarily filled with water to store equipment used during the refurbishing. That water flowed into the fuel rod pool as its water level declined, though it's not clear whether the rods would have been exposed otherwise, Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency official Masaru Kobayashi said.

A worst-case scenario envisioned by the head of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission two weeks after last year's accident warned that a melting of the fuel rods at the No. 4 reactor would require the evacuation of 30 million people just from the greater Tokyo area.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Obama to host Philippine president at White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will meet with Philippine President Benigno Aquino III on June 8 at the White House. The White House says Obama looks forward to discussing the strategic, economic and "people to people" ties between the U.S. and the Philippines and their cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Obama has said the U.S. needs to deepen its engagement in the fast-growing Asia Pacific region, calling it critical to the nation's security and economic prosperity. The Philippines is a longtime ally of the United States.

Afghan official: 8 civilians killed in airstrike

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan authorities say an airstrike by the U.S.-led NATO coalition has killed eight members of a family in eastern Afghanistan. The coalition says it is aware of the allegation and is looking into what happened late Saturday in Paktia province. Provincial spokesman Rohullah Samon said Sunday that a man, woman and their six children were killed in a coalition airstrike 8 p.m. in Suri Khail village of Gurda Saria district. Actions of the Taliban kill more civilians than foreign forces, but the deaths of citizens caught in the crossfire of the decade-long war continue to be an irritant in President Hamid Karzai's relationship with his international partners.

Pakistan: US missile attack kills 4 in northwest

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—An American drone fired two missiles at a bakery in northwest Pakistan Saturday, killing four suspected militants, officials said, as the U.S. pushed ahead with its drone campaign despite Pakistani demands to stop. This was the third such strike in the country in less than a week. Two Pakistani intelligence officials said the latest attack took place in Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal region. The officials said the victims were buying goods from a bakery when the missiles hit. Residents were still removing the debris, officials said. All of the dead were foreigners, but the officials did not have any information on their identities or nationalities.

Chinese ex-official allegedly raped over 10 girls

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have detained a former official in a central Chinese city for allegedly raping more than 10 girls. Officials in Yongcheng city referred queries Sunday to a statement by the city government that says Li Xingong confessed during a police interrogation to having raped more than 10 girls. It says Li was detained Friday. Li was deputy director of the city's Communist Party committee's general office. The statement says an investigation is ongoing and that Li will be "severely and swiftly punished" according to the relevant laws. The case is being widely discussed on China's popular Twitter-like site, Sina Weibo, with many users expressing outrage against the former official.

Top Philippine judge says he didn't declare $2.4M

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The chief justice of the Philippine Supreme Court has testified at his impeachment trial that he did not violate any laws when he failed to declare $2.4 million in bank accounts. Renato Corona invoked the bank privacy law that protects foreign deposits from disclosure. Several senators and prosecutors who want Corona removed from office on charges of betraying public trust said Friday that he violated the constitution that says public officials must declare all their assets. The politically charged trial has entered its final phase and a decision is expected next week. Corona's impeachment has become a focus of President Benigno Aquino III's anti-corruption effort. Corona has accused Aquino of threatening democracy by conspiring to have him fired.

Chinese driver on trial over toddler left to die

BEIJING (AP)—State media in China say a trial has begun for a man accused of driving a minivan that ran over a toddler on a busy street. The case sparked outrage after the little girl was ignored as she lay dying on the road. The official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday that Hu Jun was charged with the wrongful death of 2-year-old Wang Yue in the southern city of Foshan. Video footage shows the van striking the toddler and then resuming driving, rolling its back right wheel over her. Over the next seven minutes, 18 people walked or cycled by the child. Another van struck her before a scrap picker scooped her up as the girl's mother came looking for her. The child died a week later, but the incident caused soul searching among Chinese over declining morality.

Philippines appoints ambassador to China amid row

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has appointed a new ambassador to China amid a 2-month-long standoff with Beijing over a contested shoal in the South China Sea. President Benigno Aquino III's spokeswoman Abigail Valte said Saturday that Aquino has nominated retired diplomat Sonia Brady as ambassador to China, with jurisdiction over North Korea and Mongolia. Brady was formerly ambassador to Beijing. The Philippines has been without an ambassador to China since last year. A Filipino-Chinese businessman earlier nominated for the post failed to pass Congress' Commission on Appointments. The Philippines on Monday filed its 7th diplomatic protest with China since the standoff began, accusing Beijing of sending more vessels to Scarborough Shoal, which both countries claim.

Blind China activist's brother returns to village

BEIJING (AP)—A rights lawyer says the brother of blind Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng has returned to his closely guarded village in eastern China. Ding Xikui says he received a message from a friend of Chen Guangfu that said Chen had returned to Dongshigu village. Chen had traveled to Beijing, where he sought legal advice from Ding this past week on how to protect his son from what the family's supporters call retaliation by local officials. Ding had no further information Sunday, and it was unclear if Chen returned to the village voluntarily. Chen Guangcheng sought protection of U.S. diplomats last month after escaping abusive house arrest in Dongshigu. It sparked a standoff between Beijing and Washington that resulted in Chen being allowed to go to the U.S. to study.

World

Dozens of children are killed in new Syria attack

By BEN HUBBARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

This image made from amateur video released by Shaam News Network and accessed Saturday, May 26, 2012 purports to show covered bodies after a government assault on Houla, Syria.

BEIRUT (AP)—Gruesome video Saturday showed rows of dead Syrian children lying in a mosque in bloody shorts and T-shirts with gaping head wounds, haunting images of what activists called one of the deadliest regime attacks yet in Syria's 14-month-old uprising.

The shelling attack on Houla, a group of villages northwest of the central city of Homs, killed more than 90 people, including at least 32 children under the age of 10, the head of the U.N. observer team in Syria said.

The attacks sparked outrage from U.S. and other international leaders, and large protests in the suburbs of Syria's capital of Damascus and its largest city, Aleppo. It also renewed fears of the relevance of a month-old international peace plan that has not stopped almost daily violence.

The U.N. denounced the attacks in a statement that appeared to hold President Bashar Assad's regime responsible, and the White House called the violence acts of "unspeakable and inhuman brutality."

"This appalling and brutal crime involving indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force is a flagrant violation of international law and of the commitments of the Syrian government to cease the use of heavy weapons in population centers and violence in all its forms," said U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and international envoy Kofi Annan. "Those responsible for perpetrating this crime must be held to account."

More than a dozen amateur videos posted online Saturday gave glimpses of the carnage, showing lines of bodies laid out in simple rooms, many with bloody faces, torsos and limbs. In some places, residents put chunks of ice on the bodies to preserve them until burial.

One two-minute video shows at least a dozen children lined up shoulder to shoulder on a checkered blanket on what appears to be the floor of a mosque. Blood trickled from one girl's mouth. One boy, appearing to be no more than 8, had his jaw blown off. The video shows flowered blankets and rugs covering several rows of other bodies.

Another video posted Saturday showed a mass grave, four bodies wide and dozens of meters (yards) long.

Activists from Houla said Saturday that regime forces peppered the area with mortars after large demonstrations against the regime on Friday. That evening, they said, pro-regime fighters known as shabiha stormed the villages, gunning down men in the streets and stabbing women and children in their homes.

A local activist reached via Skype said regime forces fired shells at Houla, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Homs. The shabiha entered the villages, raiding homes and shooting at civilians, Abu Yazan said. More than 100 people were killed, more than 40 of them children and most of them in the village of Taldaw, he said. Many had stab wounds, another activist said.

"They killed entire families, from parents on down to children, but they focused on the children," Yazan said.

The Syrian government blamed the killings on "armed terrorist groups"—a term it often uses for the opposition—but provided no details or death toll.

But like U.N. officials, the White House issued a statement directed at the regime.

The U.S. is "horrified" by the Houla attacks, National Security Council spokeswoman Erin Pelton said in a statement. "These acts serve as a vile testament to an illegitimate regime that responds to peaceful political protest with unspeakable and inhuman brutality."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned the attack "in the strongest possible terms," demanding that "those who perpetrated this atrocity must be identified and held to account."

"The United States will work with the international community to intensify our pressure on Assad and his cronies, whose rule by murder and fear must come to an end," Clinton said in statement.

U.N. observers, among more than 250 who were dispatched in recent weeks to salvage the cease-fire plan, found spent artillery tank shells at the site Saturday, and U.N. officials confirmed the shells were fired at residential neighborhoods. The head of the team, Maj. Gen. Robert Mood, called the attack a "brutal tragedy."

The bloodshed is yet another blow to the international peace plan brokered by Annan and cast a pall over his coming visit to check on the plan's progress. The cease-fire between forces loyal to the regime of Assad and rebels seeking to topple it was supposed to start on April 12 but has never really taken hold, with new killings every day.

The U.N. put the death toll weeks ago at more than 9,000. Hundreds have been killed since.

The grisly images were condemned by anti-regime groups and political leaders around the world.

"With these new crimes, this murderous regime pushes Syria further into horror and threatens regional stability," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said in a statement Saturday.

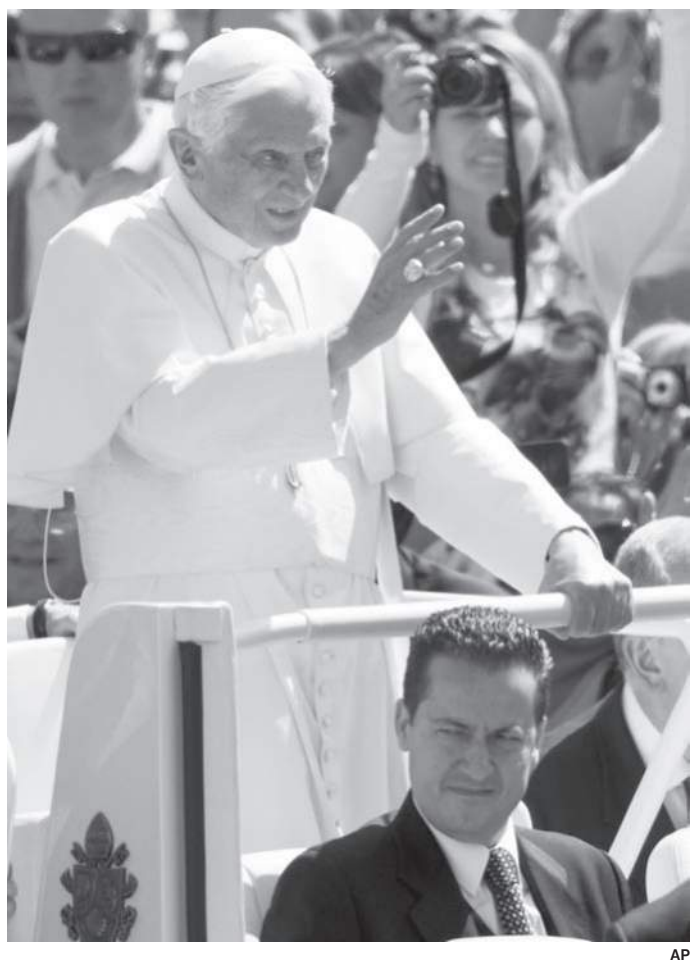
Vatican in chaos after butler arrested for leaks

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican's inquisition into the source of leaked documents has yielded its first target with the arrest of the pope's butler, but the investigation is continuing into a scandal that has embarrassed the Holy See by revealing evidence of internal power struggles, intrigue and corruption in the highest levels of the Catholic Church governance.

The detention of butler Paolo Gabriele, one of the few members of the papal household, capped one of the most convulsive weeks in recent Vatican history and threw the Holy See into chaos as it enters a critical phase in its efforts to show the world it's serious about complying with international norms on financial transparency.

The tumult began with the publication last weekend of a book of leaked Vatican documents including correspondence, notes and memos to the pope and his private secretary. It peaked with the inglorious ouster on Thursday of the president of the Vatican bank. And it concluded with confirmation Saturday that Pope Benedict XVI's own butler was the alleged mole feeding documents to Italian journalists in an apparent bid to discredit the pontiff's No. 2.

"If you wrote this in fiction you wouldn't believe it," said Carl Anderson, a member of the board of the Vatican bank which contributed to the whirlwind with its no-confidence vote in its president, Ettore Gotti Tedeschi. "No editor would let you put it in a novel."



AP

In this photo taken Wednesday, May, 23, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI delivers his blessing as he arrives at St.Peter's square at the Vatican for a general audience. The Vatican has confirmed Saturday, May 26, 2012, that the pope's butler Paolo Gabriele, bottom, was arrested in an embarrassing leaks scandal.

The bank, known as the Institute for Religious Works, issued a scathing denunciation of Gotti Tedeschi in a memorandum obtained Saturday by The Associated Press. In it the bank, or IOR by its Italian initials, explained its reasons for ousting Gotti Tedeschi: he routinely missed board meetings, failed to do his job, failed to defend the bank, polarized its personnel and displayed "progressively erratic personal behavior."

Gotti Tedeschi was also accused by the board of leaking documents himself: The IOR memorandum said he "failed to provide any formal explanation for the dissemination of documents last known" to be in his possession.

In an interview with the AP, Anderson said the latter accusation was independent of the broader "Vatileaks" scandal that has rocked the Vatican for months. But he stressed: "It is not an insignificant issue."

Gotti Tedeschi hasn't commented publicly about his ouster or the reasons behind it, saying he has too much admiration for the pope to do so. He also hasn't been arrested, avoiding the fate that befell Gabriele.

The 46-year-old father of three has been in Vatican detention since Wednesday after Vatican investigators discovered Holy See documents in his apartment. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Gabriele had met with his lawyers and that the investigation was taking its course through the Vatican's judicial system.

Rebel groups merge in Mali, agree to create Islamic state

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The two rebel groups that seized control of the northern half of Mali announced Saturday that they have agreed to fuse their movements and work together to create an independent Islamic state on the territory they occupy, a signatory to the agreement said.

Alghabass Ag Intalla, one of the leaders of Ansar Dine, which is fighting to create an Islamic state, confirmed that his movement was joining with the National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad, a secular rebel group led by Tuareg separatists. They signed the agreement in the northern town of Gao on Saturday evening, and celebratory gunfire rang out in both Gao and Timbuktu, another town under their control, as fighters heard the news.

"I have just signed an accord that will see an independent and Islamic state where we have Islamic law," Ag Intalla said.

It's one more worrying development for Mali, because Ansar Dine is known to have ties to al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the al-Qaida affiliate in Africa, which is responsible for dozens of suicide attacks as well as the kidnappings of foreigners, some of whom were later executed.

The two groups took over the north of Mali, an area the size of France, at the end of March, forcing Malian government troops to flee south. Until now, the two had been in disagreement because Ansar Dine wants to impose Shariah law in the area they occupy, something the secular NMLA had been resisting.

Ansar Dine had also previously said they were opposed to the NMLA objective of creating an independent homeland for Mali's Tuaregs, a goal they now say they are backing.

During the rebel advance in March, residents said there were visible turf wars with the fighters occupying different areas of the cities under their control.

In Timbuktu, the last major town in the north to fall to the rebels, the NMLA took over the local airport, located on the outskirts of town, while Ansar Dine installed itself in the military camp at the center of the fabled city. The two have different rebel flags, and witnesses reported seeing one group raise its flag over an administrative building, like the governor's residence, only for the second group to show up, and replace it with their own flag.

Health & Fitness

Born to run barefoot? Some end up getting injured

By ALICIA CHANG
AP SCIENCE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Swept by the barefoot running craze, ultramarathoner Ryan Carter ditched his sneakers for footwear that mimics the experience of striding unshod.

The first time he tried it two years ago, he ran a third of a mile on grass. Within three weeks of switching over, he was clocking six miles on the road.

During a training run with a friend along a picturesque bike path near downtown Minneapolis, Carter suddenly stopped, unable to take another step. His right foot seared in pain.

"It was as though someone had taken a hammer and hit me with it," he recalled.

Carter convinced his friend to run on without him. He hobbled home and rested his foot. When the throbbing became unbearable days later, he went to the doctor. The diagnosis: a stress fracture.

As more avid runners and casual athletes experiment with barefoot running, doctors say they are treating injuries ranging from pulled calf muscles to Achilles tendinitis to metatarsal stress fractures, mainly in people who ramped up too fast. In serious cases, they are laid up for several months.

Many converts were inspired by Christopher McDougall's 2009 best-seller "Born To Run," widely credited with sparking the barefoot running trend in the Western world. The book focuses on an Indian tribe in Mexico whose members run long distances without pain in little more than sandals.

While the ranks of people running barefoot or in "barefoot running shoes" have grown in recent years, they still represent the minority of runners. Some devotees swear they are less prone to injuries after kicking off their athletic shoes though there's no evidence that barefoot runners suffer fewer problems.

In some cases, foot specialists are noticing injuries arising from the switch to barefoot, which uses different muscles. Shod runners tend to have a longer stride and land on their heel compared with barefoot runners, who are more likely to have a shorter stride and land on the midfoot or forefoot. Injuries can occur when people transition too fast and put too much pressure on their calf and foot muscles, or don't shorten their stride and end up landing on their heel with no padding.

Podiatrist Paul Langer used to see one or two barefoot running injuries a month at his Twin Cities Orthopedics practice in Minneapolis. Now he treats between three and four a week.

"Most just jumped in a little too enthusiastically," said Langer, an experienced runner and triathlete who trains in his barefoot running shoes part of the week.

Bob Baravarian, chief of podiatry at the UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, Calif., said he's seen "a fair number" of heel injuries and stress fractures among first-timers who are not used to the different forces of a forefoot strike.

AP

In a photo made Thursday, April 19, 2012, Greg Farris takes a break while wearing a protective boot as he helps set up for a weekend triathlon event in Lakeland, Fla. Farris injured his foot while running in barefoot running shoes.

"All of a sudden, the strain going through your foot is multiplied manifold" and problems occur when people don't ease into it, he said.

Running injuries are quite common. Between 30 to 70 percent of runners suffer from repetitive stress injuries every year and experts can't agree on how to prevent them. Some runners with chronic problems have seized on barefoot running as an antidote, claiming it's more natural. Others have gone so far as to demonize sneakers for their injuries.

ON THE NET
http://barefootrunning.fas.harvard.edu/
http://www.acsm.org/
http://apma.org/

Pre-human ancestors have walked and run in bare feet for millions of years often on rough surfaces, yet researchers surprisingly know very little about the science of barefoot running. The modern running shoe with its cushioned heel and stiff sole was not invented until the 1970s. And in parts of Africa and other places today, running barefoot is still a lifestyle.

The surging interest has researchers racing for answers. Does barefoot running result in fewer injuries? What kinds of runners will benefit most from switching over? What types of injuries do transitioning barefoot runners suffer and how to prevent them?

While some runners completely lose the shoes, others opt for minimal coverage. The oxymoron "barefoot running shoes" is like a glove for the feet designed to protect from glass and other hazards on the ground. Superlight minimalist shoes are a cross between barefoot shoes and traditional sneakers—there's little to no arch support and they're lower profile.

Greg Farris decided to try barefoot running to ease the pain on the outside of his knee, a problem commonly known as runner's knee. He was initially shoeless—running minutes at a time and gently building up. After three months, he switched to barefoot running shoes after developing calluses.

Halfway through a 5K run in January, he felt his right foot go numb, but he pushed on and finished the race. He saw a doctor and got a steroid shot, but the pain would not quit. He went to see another doctor, who took an X-ray and told him he had a stress fracture.

Farris was in a foot cast for three months. He recently started running again—in sneakers.

"I don't think my body is made to do it," he said, referring to barefoot running.

Report: State tobacco prevention funding lacking

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
AP TOBACCO WRITER

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—States have spent only about 3 percent of the billions they've received in tobacco taxes and legal settlements over the last decade to fund tobacco prevention programs, making it harder to reduce the death and disease caused by tobacco use, according to a report released Thursday by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Between 1998 and 2010, states have collected nearly $244 billion in cigarette taxes and settlement money, compared with only $8.1 billion earmarked for state tobacco control efforts. The numbers are far less than the minimum of $29.2 billion the CDC said should have been spent over that same period.

While states on average have never spent as much the CDC would like, the total has declined dramatically in recent years as states grapple with budget deficits that have forced layoffs, furloughs and cuts for basic services. Many also have raised tobacco taxes in order to increase revenue and supplement funds provided by the tobacco industry.

About 46 million Americans smoke, while more than 3 percent of American adults use smokeless tobacco, according to the CDC. And tobacco-related diseases are responsible for about 443,000 deaths a year in the U.S. If states were to use a greater portion of the tax and settlement money for tobacco control and prevention programs, they could achieve larger, more rapid reductions in tobacco use and health-care costs, as well as lower tobacco-related death and disease, the report said.

"We understand that there are severe financial pressures and that they have difficult choices to make," CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "Not investing in tobacco control is not only penny wise and pound foolish, but it's also costing lives."

According to the report, states that have spent larger amounts on tobacco control programs have seen cigarette sales fall about twice as much as in the U.S. overall. Smoking prevalence also has declined faster as anti-tobacco spending increased in states like Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Maine, New York, Oregon and Washington, the report said. However, other factors like smoking bans also could have contributed to those reductions.

Frieden said that while states are lacking in prevention funding, tobacco companies continue to spend billions on marketing. The industry spent $10.5 billion to market their products in 2008, the most recent year tracked by the Federal Trade Commission. In that same year, state anti-tobacco funding was about $779 million, according to the report.

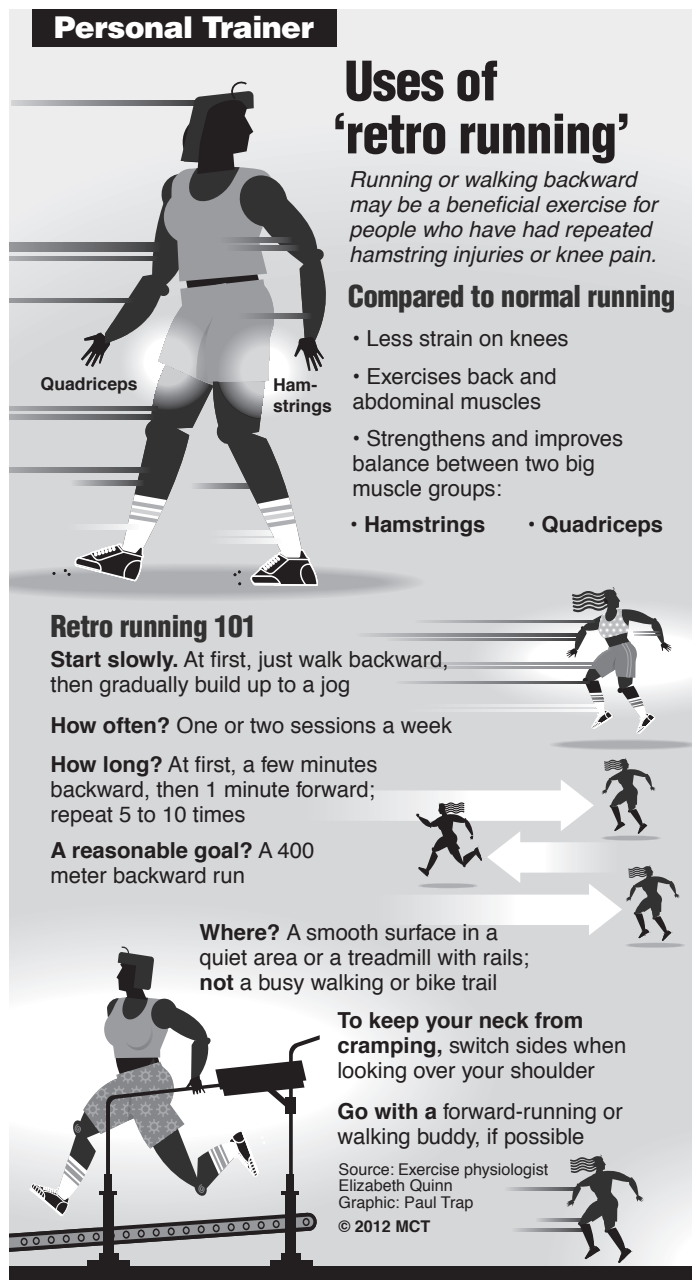
"The tobacco companies are out there doing everything they can do, and they have gobs of money to do it," said Stanton Glantz, a tobacco researcher who directs the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco.

"You don't need to meet them dollar for dollar, you just need to be out there with enough to counter them. ... It's easier to sell the truth than a lie."

In addition to raising tobacco taxes from an average of 39 cents per pack in 1998 to $1.44 per pack in 2010, states continue to receive millions of dollars every year from the tobacco industry in the form of a long-standing legal settlement.

Tobacco companies agreed in 1998 to settle lawsuits several states brought over smoking-related health care costs by paying them about $206 billion over more than two decades, but the settlement did not require the money be used for anti-tobacco and stop smoking programs. States first received full payments under the settlement in 1999. The largest U.S. tobacco company, Altria Group Inc.—based in Richmond, Va., and maker of Skoal smokeless tobacco and top-selling Marlboro cigarettes—pays a majority of that.

"Today, there's more tobacco-generated revenue available to the states, as well as the federal government, than ever before to fund proven efforts that can prevent underage tobacco use," said Altria spokesman Ken Garcia. "Obviously there's a large spend opportunity to put toward these programs that will help further reduce underage tobacco use and promote cessation."


Personal Trainer
Uses of 'retro running'
Running or walking backward may be a beneficial exercise for people who have had repeated hamstring injuries or knee pain.
Compared to normal running
• Less strain on knees
• Exercises back and abdominal muscles
• Strengthens and improves balance between two big muscle groups:
• Hamstrings • Quadriceps
Quadriceps
Hamstrings
Retro running 101
Start slowly. At first, just walk backward, then gradually build up to a jog
How often? One or two sessions a week
How long? At first, a few minutes backward, then 1 minute forward; repeat 5 to 10 times
A reasonable goal? A 400 meter backward run
Where? A smooth surface in a quiet area or a treadmill with rails; not a busy walking or bike trail
To keep your neck from cramping, switch sides when looking over your shoulder
Go with a forward-running or walking buddy, if possible
Source: Exercise physiologist Elizabeth Quinn
Graphic: Paul Trap
© 2012 MCT

Life & Style

‘Idol’ moves toward lower payouts for runners-up

AP

In this Wednesday, May 23, 2012 file photo, finalist Jessica Sanchez arrives at the “American Idol” Finale in Los Angeles.

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coming in second on “American Idol” may still be a path to superstardom, but it no longer offers guaranteed paychecks worthy of the next pop idol or rock star.

Wednesday night’s runner-up, 16-year-old Jessica Sanchez, doesn’t have a definite shot at producing an album and could be paid as little as $30,000 in advances for recording singles, according to the “Idol” contract she and other Season 11 contestants signed earlier this year.

The agreement appears to be the first time in “Idol’s” history that producers are not offering the show’s runner-up an album deal that in previous years came with a guaranteed advance of at least $175,000, an Associated Press review of the Fox show’s contracts reveals.

The analysis covers eight of “Idol’s” 11 seasons during which contracts filed for contestants under the age of 18 were available. The contracts were reviewed by judges in accordance with a California law that requires at least 15 percent of a minor entertainer’s earnings be set aside for their benefit once they reach adulthood.

The reduced royalty advance covers the period immediately following the show. In addition to recording new music, the series’ winners and finalists are obligated to perform in a concert tour and lend their likeness to a Walt Disney World Resort attraction in Florida.

If Sanchez is given an album deal following the show, she will receive the same $175,000 bonus that Lauren Alaina was paid after placing second in the show’s 10th season. But 19 Recordings Inc., which has the option to handle the albums and recordings of Idol contestants for several years after they appear on the show, has replaced a guaranteed album deal for the runner-up with a staggered “Development Period” that requires less music and pays out less in advances.

Sanchez could be paid as little as $30,000 if she is asked to perform four single songs, or $60,000 if she records an “EP” of between four and 10 songs.

Representatives for 19 Recordings Inc. and “American Idol” producer FremantleMedia declined comment. They also have not disclosed which recording deal would be offered to Sanchez.

“It makes sense. You can’t continue to offer the same sorts of rewards and incentives when the program was averaging 25 to 30 million (viewers), and (now) the finale is barely breaking 20 million,” said Northwestern University assistant professor Max Dawson, who teaches a course on reality television. Wednesday’s finale was the lowest-rated final show for “Idol” in its history.

“These contracts don’t pay off,” he said, contrasting the long list of “Idol” alumni who have been dropped by record labels with those who have thriving careers. “It seems like the successes that people like Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood have had are the flukes.”

He noted that the recording industry has shifted toward single song sales in recent years, and even established artists are struggling to sell full albums. “I wouldn’t be surprised, quite frankly, if this is the direction they head with the winners,” Dawson said.

Buyers purchased nearly 1.3 billion single songs last year as opposed to 331 million albums, said Dave Bakula, Nielsen’s senior vice president of analytics for SoundScan. He noted that there have been some successful “Idol” runners-up, but producers appear to be giving themselves more flexibility with how they develop artists in different genres.

“Idol” winner Phillip Phillips will receive the same $300,000 advance given to last year’s winner, Scotty McCreery, upon completion of his first album, according to the contracts. Finalists who placed third and lower could receive deals to record singles, EPs or full albums, with the lowest advance amounting to $24,000 if they complete their commitment to record up to four single songs.

Higher advances are paid if 19 Recordings agrees to produce more albums, with Phillips eligible to receive up to $800,000 for a six-album deal.

The advances are paid and later deducted from the singer’s song royalties.

“As the music industry is changing, it makes sense for `Idol’ to change as well,” Dawson said.

Despite the contract reductions, there are more opportunities for recent “Idol” contestants to earn money than their predecessors. Phillips will be paid $200,000 for his Disney attraction work and Sanchez will rake in $50,000 for her appearances. Both are also set to get a cut of merchandise profits.

No matter what recording deal Sanchez is offered, she already has heavyweight Hollywood representation. In March, a judge approved a deal in which she will be represented by Creative Artists Agency for future television, personal appearance and other employment deals.

Matthew McConaughey pulls off Cannes double header

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Actor Matthew McConaughey poses during a photo call for Mud at the 65th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 26, 2012.

CANNES, France (AP)—To have one film competing at the Cannes Film Festival is a privilege. To have two, Matthew McConaughey says, is wonderful good fortune—and the reward for a spell of hard labor in the trenches of independent cinema.

In Lee Daniels’ steamy Southern noir “The Paperboy,” McConaughey plays a journalist who returns to his Florida hometown to investigate a murder.

In Jeff Nichols’ “Mud,” which screened Saturday as the festival’s final competition entry, he is a story-spinning fugitive holed up on an island in the Mississippi who is befriended by two local boys.

McConaughey laughs when asked if having two movies competing for the Palme d’Or gives him divided loyalties.

“That would be a high-class problem,” he said. “I’m really, really endeared to both of them for different reasons—and they’re very, very different from each other.

“I’m very honored. I’ve got two films that I’m proud of, two experiences that I really loved, and I’ve got two characters that I really care about.”

The two films take the Texas-born actor on a tour of the U.S. South—and of men on society’s margins.

In “The Paperboy,” McConaughey’s Ward James is a crusading reporter with dark depths to his psyche that imperil his quest for the truth.

His title character in “Mud” is being hunted as a dangerous fugitive, but may be a wild innocent driven by love.

Critics have hailed McConaughey’s turn in “Mud,” and director Daniels said he was wowed by McConaughey’s nuanced performance in “The Paperboy.”

“I’m so happy that he’s so understated in the film,” Daniels said. “There were moments when I didn’t recognize Matthew.”

McConaughey said the roles were the result of a decision to “shake things up” in a career that has seen him take leads in a mixed bag of romcoms (“Failure to Launch,” “Fool’s Gold”)—and, as he noted at Cannes, play lots of lawyers, in films from “A Time to Kill” to “The Lincoln Lawyer.”

“I was looking for some characters that didn’t necessarily pander to convention, or even didn’t pander to plot,” he said, long legs stretched out on a sofa in a Cannes hotel. “They’re all kind of characters that live on the fringe, on the outskirts of society. But they’re really human characters.

“What I was really looking for is some things where I could hang my hat and be the architect of my man, and it’s based on humanity and reality. It’s not based on morality or on good or bad or right and wrong.”

That’s where the similarities end between his two Cannes films. “The Paperboy” takes a Pete Dexter crime novel and mixes in director Daniels’ fascination with shifting sexual and racial allegiances.

In “Mud,” Arkansas-born director Nichols creates an affecting coming-of-age story with echoes of Mark Twain, rooted in the landscape of his home state.

“Lee is very different from Jeff Nichols,” McConaughey said. “Lee’s not a linear thinker at all. Jeff Nichols was very linear—he wrote the script, wrote each word on purpose, and would be editing in his head after he thought he’d got his take.

“Lee grabbed this book but created his own world.”

McConaughey’s Cannes double-header is the product of remarkable year of work that saw him shoot five independent films with strikingly different directors.

As well as “The Paperboy” and “Mud,” he was a sheriff in Richard Linklater’s dark comedy “Bernie,” a club owner in Steven Soderbergh’s male-stripper movie “Magic Mike” and a hitman in William Friedkin’s thriller “Killer Joe.”

The 42-year-old actor has never been busier—or, it seems, happier.

“I fired out of bed every morning so excited, and a little scared about going to work, but excited to go and get into it,” he said. “I love the energy of an independent film. Time is so precious. There’s no go-back-to-the-trailer time. It’s a very vital experience, and I like that.”

It was also an education in modern American cinema from five filmmakers with strong personal styles.

“Friedkin, you’d do one take, maybe two,” McConaughey said. “Usually one. Soderbergh: minimalist. He’s more of a shaper.

“With Linklater—this was our third time working together. We do all this character work together. ... We have a shorthand together.”

McConaughey will find out Sunday, when the film festival wraps up, whether either of his Cannes films has taken a prize.

Next up, he hopes, is “The Dallas Buyers’ Club,” a drama based on a true story about illegal AIDS drugs in the 1980s that he’s long sought to make with director Jean-Marc Vallee.

“I never had a rule on what to do, just keep trying to do different things,” he said. “But it’s got to be more than that. I was instinctually drawn to this kind of material where I was not necessarily drawn to some other comedies or things that I’ve done in the past.

“I’m more fulfilled with the work probably than I’ve ever been, and more turned on by it, and I hope that continues.”

Lady Gaga cancels Indonesian show over security

By NINIEK KARMINI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Muslim women hold posters during a protest against Lady Gaga's concert that is scheduled to be held on June 3, in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, May 24, 2012.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Lady Gaga is canceling her sold-out show in Indonesia over security concerns after Muslim hard-liners threatened violence if the pop diva went ahead with her "Born This Way Ball."

Protesters said Lady Gaga's sexy clothes and provocative dance moves would corrupt youth in the world's most populous Muslim country. Police said they'd only issue the required permits if she agreed to tone things down.

"With threats if the concert goes ahead, Lady Gaga's side is calling off the concert," Minola Sebayang, a lawyer for concert promoter Big Daddy, told reporters Sunday.

"This is not only about Lady Gaga's security, but extends to those who will be watching her."

Indonesia, a secular nation of 240 million people, is often held up by the U.S. and others in the West as example of how Islam and democracy can coexist.

Ninety percent of the population is Muslim, but most practice a moderate, tolerant form of the faith.

A small, extremist fringe, has gotten more vocal—and violent—in recent years, however, sometimes attacking Christians and members of other religious minorities with clubs and machetes.

They also targeted transvestites, atheists and others considered "blasphemous."

Jakarta was supposed to be the biggest stop on Lady Gaga's Asian tour, with 52,000 tickets scooped up in just a few days.

Fans will be fully refunded, said Michael Rusli, head of Big Daddy. The Islamic Defenders Front, which threatened to meet Lady Gaga with tens of thousands of angry supporters if she dared step off the plane in the capital of Jakarta, celebrated news of her cancellation.

"This is a victory for Indonesian Muslims," said Salim Alatas, one of the leaders of the hard-line group. "Thanks to God for protecting us from a kind of devil."

Court orders woman to stay away from Jeff Goldblum

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Friday granted Jeff Goldblum a temporary restraining order against a woman who has been repeatedly ordered to stay away from the actor in recent years.

Goldblum's attorneys obtained the order against Linda Ransom, 49, after she repeatedly went to the actor's home three times this month. A previous stay-away order against Ransom from 2007 has expired and police claim she has told them that she will not stop trying to meet Goldblum unless a restraining order is in place.

Goldblum

The filings state Ransom has been arrested three times for violating previous restraining orders. Goldblum first alerted authorities to her in 2001 after she attended one of his acting classes and then started waiting outside his home.

"Over the past decade, I have experienced substantial emotional distress due to Ms. Ransom's continuous stalking, harassing, and threatening behavior," Goldblum wrote in a sworn court declaration.

Ransom did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

A judge will consider whether to grant Goldblum, who has starred in films as "The Fly," "Jurassic Park" and "Independence Day," a three-year restraining order during a hearing on June 12.

Mexico's Michel Franco wins Cannes sidebar prize

CANNES, France (AP)—"After Lucia" by Mexican director Michel Franco has won the top prize in the Cannes Film Festival's sidebar competition, Un Certain Regard.

It was chosen Saturday from a slate of 20 films by a jury headed by British actor Tim Roth.

Un Certain Regard focuses on new and emerging filmmakers.

The jury gave second prize to French film "Le Grand Soir" by Benoit Delepine and Gustave Kervern, and a "special distinction" citation to Bosnian film "Djeca" ("Children of Sarajevo") by Aida Begic.

Twenty-two films from around the world are competing for prizes in the festival's main competition. Winners will be announced Sunday.

Favorites for the top prize, the Palme d'Or, include Michael Haneke's "Amour" and Christian Mungiu's "Beyond the Hills."

Jenna Jameson arrested for suspected DUI in Calif.

WESTMINSTER, Calif. (AP)—Former adult film star Jenna Jameson has been arrested in Southern California for investigation of driving under the influence after she struck a light pole with her vehicle.

Police say Jameson had driven her vehicle into a light pole early Friday in Westminster. She suffered minor injuries but refused medical treatment.

A police statement says a field sobriety test was conduct and there were signs of intoxication. Jameson was booked and later cited and released.

A statement issued by her website says Jameson is home and well but has no immediate comment.

Jameson crossed into the mainstream after publishing a popular autobiography in 2004. She has twin sons with mixed martial arts star Tito Ortiz, who two years ago claimed Jameson was addicted to the painkiller Oxycontin.

AP

In this Oct. 13, 2010 file photo Jenna Jameson poses in Los Angeles.

Madonna in holy land to kick off world tour

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israelis are gearing up to get down at Madonna's show as the pop diva landed in the holy land ahead of her world tour, which kicks off here next week.

The Material girl's motorcade entered the Tel Aviv Dan hotel parking lot Friday as guards shielded the superstar from the media.

Madonna

Fans are dressing up as the superstar at Madonna theme parties in Tel Aviv clubs and bars.

Madonna isn't Jewish but she has adopted the Hebrew name of Esther and studies Jewish mysticism. She is known here as "Queen Esther" and Israeli media announced that "the Queen has arrived."

Madonna is expected to visit holy sites in Israel ahead of her "MDNA" world tour that will kick off May 31 in Tel Aviv.

Dad's dying wish for burial becomes a financial burden

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: How important are a dying person's last wishes? My dad died recently and said that he wanted to be buried with his first wife in a state far from where we live. If his estate—or his current wife—can't afford to comply with his request, would it be horrible to do something else?

In today's economy most seniors don't have any extra income. To follow Dad's final wishes would take a sizable chunk of his estate. His wife feels it's not important to follow his last wishes because of the cost, but it really bothers me.

Dad was in the Navy during WWII. If his wife isn't willing to spend the money, would I still be a good guy by scattering his ashes in the ocean? I know he'd rather be in the deep than sitting on a shelf in the work shed. Please help.

DISTURBED SON IN NEVADA

DEAR DISTURBED SON: Your letter illustrates why it is important for people to have their wishes in writing. In this case, your father's wife would have the right to his ashes, unless it was stated otherwise in black and white.

As far as granting a personal last wish, you need to use your best judgment, particularly if doing so would cause financial hardship. In this case, cremation would be a creative way to make everyone happy. Your father's ashes could be divided into thirds, with one portion placed with his first wife, another with his second wife, and the rest scattered at sea.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My spouse, "Jack," and I were married four years ago. Three years ago he made me choose between him and my then 7-year-old son. I haven't spoken to or seen my son for three years. Not having my child in my life has made me become depressed, but I keep it bottled up inside.

Jack has three children—all adults. We rarely see them. I brought two children into our marriage, ages 7 and 14. Jack says he doesn't want to be a father or grandfather. (We have three grandchildren.) I am scared to question why it is like this.

Am I a terrible mother/grandmother? Does this mean he doesn't really love me since my children are a part of me? I want to be a grandmother and enjoy my grandchildren. He knew I had kids when we were dating, but both of them lived with relatives at the time because of custody issues.

SAD GRANDMA IN ARIZONA

DEAR SAD GRANDMA: It isn't that Jack doesn't love you. He appears to be so preoccupied with his own needs, desires and controlling you that he probably doesn't think about much else. That you are "scared" to question him speaks volumes about your relationship.

If you want to be a part of your children's and grandchildren's lives, you will have to do so without his blessing or participation. You will also have to strengthen your backbone and emancipate yourself.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: One of my neighbors regularly uses power equipment before 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings. I think people should refrain from using loud machinery before 10 a.m. on weekends. Am I being unreasonable?

DEB IN TACOMA

DEAR DEB: Not in my book. Most municipalities have noise ordinances in place that regulate sound levels that might become an annoyance. To find out if there is one in your neighborhood, inquire at City Hall. If there isn't, consider gathering signatures on a petition so regulations can be established. You may not be the only neighbor who is bothered by the disruption.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: Along with the millions of Americans who are observing this Memorial Day, I would like to add my prayer of thanks to those men and women of our armed services who sacrificed their lives in service to our country. May they rest in peace.

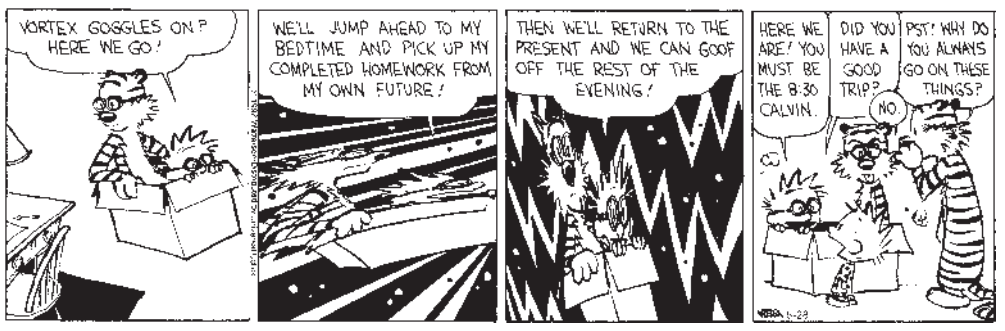
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


VORTEX GOGGLES ON? HERE WE GO!
WE'LL JUMP AHEAD TO MY BEDTIME AND PICK UP MY COMPLETED HOMEWORK FROM MY OWN FUTURE!
THEN WE'LL RETURN TO THE PRESENT AND WE CAN GOOF OFF THE REST OF THE EVENING!
HERE WE ARE! YOU MUST BE THE 8:30 CALVIN.
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TRIP?
NO.
PSST! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GO ON THESE THINGS?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM
WHOA...
THEN IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'M HAVING A GOOD TIME?
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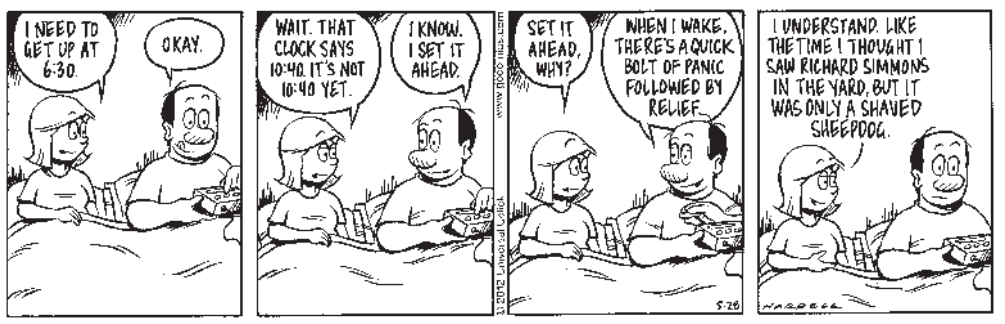
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED TO GET UP AT 6:30.
OKAY.
WAIT. THAT CLOCK SAYS 10:40. IT'S NOT 10:40 YET.
I KNOW. I SET IT AHEAD.
SET IT AHEAD, WHY?
WHEN I WAKE, THERE'S A QUICK BOLT OF PANIC FOLLOWED BY RELIEF.
I UNDERSTAND. LIKE THE TIME I THOUGHT I SAW RICHARD SIMMONS IN THE YARD, BUT IT WAS ONLY A SHAVED SHEEPDOG.
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

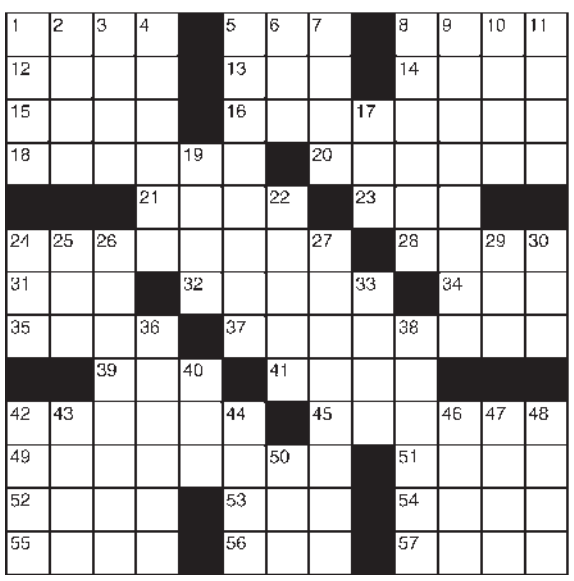
ACROSS
1 Roseanne of comedy
5 Embrace
8 Mimicked
12 Writer James
13 Web address
14 Wise one
15 Chicken —
16 Winter truck attachment
18 Sign up
20 Fanciful quality
21 Congers, e.g.
23 Raw mineral
24 Veggies in Chinese recipes
28 Engrave
31 Young pooch
32 Nonsense
34 See 53-Across
35 Help a hood
37 Big deceptions
39 Siesta
41 Sycamore, for one
42 Speaker's platform
45 Immoderate
49 Anne Murray hit song
51 — gin fizz
52 Old portico
53 With 34-Across, rum cocktail
54 Black, in poetry
55 Ripped
56 And so on (Abbr.)
57 Tibetan beasts

DOWN
1 Use the oven
2 Not "fer"
3 Rod adjunct
4 Critic's write-up
5 Con men
6 Grecian vessel
7 Radiate light
8 Have high hopes
9 South Carolina, the — State
10 Ids' counterparts
11 Moist in the morn
17 Personal question?
19 Calendar abbr.
22 Canonized one
24 Hot tub
25 Gist
26 Freedom of access
27 Irregular
29 Taxi
30 That guy's
33 Basin accessory
36 Island off China
38 Footballer's garment
40 Tavern
42 "Hey, you!"
43 Aware of
44 Marceau, notably
46 Actress Jessica
47 Recess
48 Sawbucks
50 Garbage invader

Solution time: 24 mins.

	M	O	D	E	M		S	C	A	M	P	I
S	E	R	E	N	E		O	R	D	A	I	N
A	G	E	I	S	M		M	A	S	K	E	D
T	A	O	S		O	P	E	N		E	T	O
			M	A	R	A		K	E	G		
E	W	E			D	I	V	A		T	O	G	A
M	F	D	I	C	A	I	S	C	H	O	O	L
S	T	U	D		L	O	T	S		D	O	E
			C	O	Y		V	E	I	N		
L	E	A			A	F	A	R		U	S	E	S
A	T	T	I	R	E		I	N	T	A	K	E
O	N	E	I	D	A		S	E	T	T	E	E
S	A	D	I	S	T		K	E	Y	E	D	

Saturday's answer 5-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carey Mulligan, 27; Kylie Minogue, 44; Christa Miller, 48; Gladys Knight, 68.

Happy Birthday: You must concentrate first and foremost on your personal financial situation and the agreements you have with others. You can position yourself well if you are detailed and precise about your desires and expectations. Discipline must be implemented, as nothing can be left to chance or undone. Your numbers are 6, 9, 20, 27, 36, 41, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Apply pressure if it will help you get things moving. Show leadership, doing whatever it takes to offset mishaps before they begin. Coming up with a quick solution that saves the day will be your forte. Utilize your skills and enjoy victory. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't question your abilities. Take the initiative and figure out what will work best for you. Be vocal about your feelings and what you would like to see happen, but be sure to understand everyone else's needs as well. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Think with your head, not your heart. Indecisiveness will make you seem weak. Be a powerhouse, not a pushover. Don't let changes others make throw you off guard or alter your plans. Arguing will be a waste of time. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Observation will be your guide. Don't expect everyone to be open or honest with you. Ask questions and listen carefully to the information divulged. A trip will uncover interesting facts. Use your imagination, but don't act on assumptions. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may feel exuberant, but before engaging in something new, consider how feasible your plans are. Excess will lead to loss. Get promises in writing before you commit to anything with the potential to leave you broke or looking incompetent. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have mixed emotions regarding your future. Don't let someone's embellishment lead you astray. Believe in your abilities and invest in your attributes and skills. Changes at home may not be welcome, but they will prove beneficial. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Love, travel and adventure should be where you put your time and energy. You will make new friends and partners who have the potential to compliment you personally or professionally. Attend a conference or event that can help you advance. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on money, contracts or legal settlements that must be resolved. Don't trust anyone to do the work for you. Go over details carefully, listen to your intuition and be diligent about your path rather than following someone else's suggestion. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can get your way by helping others and responding persuasively to what others do and say. Stick to the truth, act fast and don't leave room for error, or someone will complain or criticize you. Impatience will be your downfall. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Trying to resolve a personal problem will result in a change in your relationship. Be careful how you treat others. It may affect a deal that can bring you high returns. Integrity will help you win in the end. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can get a lot accomplished regarding personal papers and home and family responsibilities. Love is highlighted, and socializing with someone you adore will enhance your relationship. Don't let insecurity be your downfall. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Double-check that you are getting valid information before you share it with others. Upset and anger will develop if you make changes without the approval of someone your decisions will affect. Think before you act. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a communicator with great ideas. You are aggressive and productive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	3							6
				9			1	
7	2	6	8			5		
					1	8		9
3	5						2	7
6		8	7					
		2			6	4	7	8
	7			2				
4							3	1

Difficulty Level ★ 5/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	8	4	9	5	2	6	3
5	4	9	3	6	2	1	8	7
6	2	3	1	8	7	4	5	9
2	9	7	5	1	8	3	4	6
8	6	1	2	3	4	9	7	5
4	3	5	9	7	6	8	2	1
9	8	2	6	5	3	7	1	4
3	5	4	7	2	1	6	9	8
7	1	6	8	4	9	5	3	2

Difficulty level ★★★★ 5/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ASKING FOR TIME OFF **Solution: 5 letters**

B	W	E	E	K	S	K	E	C	N	A	L	A	B	E
E	O	S	S	T	C	F	L	R	D	O	C	T	O	R
M	R	S	K	I	I	I	E	E	W	A	S	N	I	A
A	K	E	S	L	E	M	N	I	S	I	O	A	G	P
P	S	N	A	N	M	T	E	E	R	I	N	N	E	E
P	T	I	T	U	I	W	R	O	T	B	I	T	V	R
R	N	S	S	S	R	U	S	A	N	V	Y	R	E	P
O	E	U	T	I	D	I	C	O	O	V	E	A	E	R
V	M	B	T	E	V	I	I	M	A	S	A	V	C	E
I	A	I	C	R	N	T	A	L	E	Y	R	E	I	Y
N	N	O	E	U	A	N	I	D	L	S	E	L	F	O
G	R	P	M	C	A	D	P	L	A	N	S	N	F	L
P	U	M	A	G	E	T	A	W	A	Y	E	A	O	P
S	O	V	E	R	L	A	P	H	O	N	E	S	G	M
C	T	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	L	E	S	E

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Approving, Balance, Boss, Brief, Business, Clients, Communication, Dentist, Deserve, Doctor, Employer, Getaway, Illness, Manager, Message, Money, Moving, Office, Overlap, Phone, Plans, Prepare, Procedures, Reason, Responsible, Sick, Summer, Supervisor, Tasks, Time, Tournament, Travel, Vacation, Valid, Weeks, Winter, Works, Writing, Year

Last Saturday's Answer: Assorted

To order "THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 send $6.95 each (U.S. funds only) to Universal Uclick, 53 puzzles in the first book, order $1.95. To each book title, Send to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5400. Order online at puzzles.com. Contains 53 puzzles, 9 crossword challenges, 23 x 30 size.

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WHATZIT Solution: Diamond in the rough

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

OCEANSIDE BAR N' GRILL
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Manager (1)
- Bachelor degree in business management
- Excellent customer service skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Understands budgeting processes and awareness of profit & loss concept
- Strong technology aptitude required, proficient in; Excel Spreadsheets, QuickBooks accounting software, Microsoft Outlook
- Work all shifts and flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 4-5 years customer service related working experience required
- Salary $5.50 to $6.00/Hourly

Bartender/Server (3)
- High School graduate
- Great customer service skills
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 2-4 years working experience
- Knowledgeable in mixing drinks and serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and beverages to customers
- Salary $5.05/Hourly

Interested applicants can apply in person or email their resumes at osidebarngrill@yahoo.com.

Century Tours is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

GENERAL MANAGER

Job Summary:

The General Manager is responsible for spearheading and overseeing the entirety of the Company's operations, including strategic planning, annual budgeting, human resources management, project analysis and management, marketing and public relations, financial management, retail and commercial leasing, and the overall administration of the Company's resources.

Furthermore, the General Manager shall oversee, manage and enhance not only the Company's existing land-based operations, but will also, through the establishment of supported functions in the value-chain, expand the Company's horizon and opportunities, including but not limited to collaboration with Group-operated hotels, alliance programs with middle to high-end hotels, food and beverage services, retail and commercial leasing and other value-added services.

The post requires the incumbent to have excellent multi-tasking, organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills, as well as a thorough knowledge of the industry and other potentially-related value-added services that will maximize the profitability of the Company.

Minimum Qualification Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in business management, tourism and/or hotel management.

Work Experience: More than five years solid and progressively responsible experience in travel and tourism business with no less than three years experience as General Manager or higher-level position.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to **hrd_ctr@tanholdings.com** not later than May 30, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Position: **(1) RESTAURANT MANAGER**

Qualifications: **Knowledge:** Must have working knowledge of the following: overall hotel operations; departmental planning; project conceptualization; coordination of projects; computer operation; people management; different cultures and nationalities; Four (4) years practical experience working in a hotel environment, specifically in the F&B Divisions, or a combination of the two department operations. Minimum of two (2) years experience in managing hotel restaurant.

Skills: Must have hands-on experience and solid skills in the hotel reservations; problem solving; oral and written communication. Must be able to lead, manage, and motivate staff. Must have ability to work with international staff. Must be able to work under pressure and in a team environment.

Personal Qualities: Must be well-organized, professional disposition, professional appearance, excellent social skills, mature, responsible, open-minded, flexible, with strong sense of integrity and work ethics.

Experience Required: College Degree graduate, plus minimum of two continuous years experience in F&B Department at managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort.

Duties: Coordinates food service activities of hotel, restaurant, or other similar establishment or at social functions. Estimate food and beverage costs, and requisitions or purchase supplies. Confers with food preparation and other personnel to plan menus and related activities such as dining room, bar and banquet operations. Directs hiring and assignment or personnel. Investigates and resolves food quality and service complaints. May review financial transactions and monitor budget limitation. May be designated according to type of establishment or specialty.

P.O BOX 500369, SAIPAN, MP 96950-0369
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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Technical Maintenance Coordinator**
Opening Date: May 28, 2012
Closing Date: June 13, 2012

Starting Salary: **PL 26/01 to PL 26/12 ($18,584.42 to $31,757.68 per annum)**

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2012 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than June 13, 2012, to the Acting Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Acting Corporate Director

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Rondo leads Celtics to Game 7 win over 76ers

BOSTON (AP)—To Doug Collins, Boston's Big Three is already a memory.

"I don't look at them as the Big Three. I look at them as the Championship Four," the Philadelphia coach said. "Because if you're going to leave Rondo out, you're making a huge mistake."

Rajon Rondo helped his aging teammates keep their season going Saturday night, finishing with 18 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds in Game 7 against the 76ers to lead Boston to an 85-75 victory and into an Eastern Conference finals matchup with the Miami Heat.

The Celtics will open the third round of the NBA playoffs in Miami on Monday night.

"I've already packed," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "We'll be ready. It's going to be a tough turnaround, but we're not an excuse team. We'll be ready on Monday."

Bouncing back from his worst game of the playoffs—and snapping out of a 32-minute slump in which he had just two assists and five points—Rondo scored nine straight Boston points after Paul Pierce fouled out to help the Celtics turn a three-point edge into a double-digit lead.

Rondo had 11 points in the fourth quarter, including his first 3-pointer in five games, made all four of his free throws down the stretch and grabbed his 10th rebound in the final minute—chucking it over his head and into the frontcourt to help the Celtics dribble down the clock.

"He really came through," Sixers guard Jrue Holiday said. "He put the team on his back."

Andre Iguodala scored 18 points, and Holiday and Elton Brand had 15 apiece for the 76ers, who eliminated the top-seeded Chicago Bulls in the first round but couldn't do the same with the Celtics.

Kevin Garnett had 18 points and 13 rebounds for Boston, and Ray Allen hit a pair of fourth-quarter 3-pointers after missing his first five attempts.

"Ray is the ultimate gunslinger," Rivers said. "That's what makes great players great. I was a basketball player someday, and I would have never taken that shot."

Pierce had 15 points and nine rebounds before fouling out with 4:16 left.

That's when Rondo took over.

The point guard, who had nine points and a playoff-low six assists in the Game 6 loss in Philadelphia, scored on a baseline drive and followed it up with a long 2-pointer (originally scored a 3) with 2:47 left. Then he made a 3-pointer with a little more than 2 minutes left to make it a 10-point game and, after Brand scored on a tip-in, Rondo went to the line as the crowd chanted "M-V-P! M-V-P!" and hit a pair of free throws to leave Boston with an 80-70 lead with 1:44 left.

The Celtics will now face the actual NBA MVP—LeBron James—along with Dwyane Wade and the rest of the Heat. Miami advanced to the conference finals by eliminating the Indiana Pacers in six games.

Miami beat Boston in five games in the conference semifinals last year. In 2010, the Celtics eliminated the Heat in the first round and then knocked James and the Cavaliers out in the second—his final game with Cleveland before defecting to Miami.

"Last year is in the past," Rondo said. "This year we're a totally different team. We feel we can beat Miami. We got to this point; there's no doubt in my mind we can. We've got to go down there and take care of business."

Philadelphia had one last chance with 100 seconds to play after Holiday made a 3-pointer to cut it to seven points. Pierce was left with nothing to do but cheerlead, waving his arms to encourage the crowd as Garnett went to the line with just under a minute left.

He made one of two, but Holiday lost the ball on the way to the basket and Rondo made a pair of free throws with 54 seconds left. Allen made a pair as the crowd chanted "Beat the Heat!"

Jodie Meeks' 3-pointer rimmed out, the ball bounced to the floor and Rondo got his hands on it to complete the triple-double.

Pierce picked up two fouls seven seconds apart with about 8 minutes to play, then his fifth with 5:16 left. Rivers left him in, and Pierce picked up No. 6 a minute later—a charging call against Thaddeus Young out by the free throw line.

Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo drives against Philadelphia 76ers forward Andre Iguodala, right, during the fourth quarter of Game 7 in an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series, Saturday, May 26, 2012, in Boston. AP

James, Heat start tuning for Eastern Conference finals

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James shook a few hands, slapped a few fives, gave a few hugs.

That was the extent of his celebrating after the Miami Heat ousted the Indiana Pacers.

A return to the Eastern Conference finals—no small achievement by any measure—is nice, though it's far from the oft-stated goal for the reigning NBA MVP and the Heat. They'll host Game 1 of the East title series on Monday night against Boston.

"You can't just show up, no matter who you're playing against," James said Saturday, when the Heat resumed practice after taking one day off to rest up and recover from a grind against Indiana. "We have to prepare the same way we've done the first two rounds—and even prepare ourselves even more. As the rounds go, the competition grows, so we look forward to the challenge."

The way James sees it, there's not a lot of reason for celebration yet. After all, he's not wearing the letters VIII across his upper teeth.

Over the past couple seasons, James has worn mouthguards with fangs, others with the Heat logo, and some with no adornments whatsoever. For these playoffs, he's broken out something new: A mouthguard embossed "XVI."

It doesn't take much to decipher what those Roman numerals are supposed to signify. It's 16, the number of wins that the Heat would need to capture the NBA championship. Miami has the first eight of those out of the way, but in this all-or-nothing season for the Heat, that's far from enough to satisfy anyone. Beating New York brought one or two quick moments of excitement, as did topping Indiana, but neither provided the ultimate moment.

"The first year in Cleveland, when we beat Washington in that first-round series, it was an achievement for not only myself and my teammates but for our franchise, which hadn't been to the playoffs in a long time," James said. "Those days are over. My aspiration is to go win a championship now. So those days are over."

They've been over for a while, of course. And as if anyone needed any reminder of the goal, James started wearing the "XVI" mouthguard. The idea came from Mike Mancias, a trainer who has worked with James for years, first in Cleveland and for the past two seasons with the Heat.

"We always look for inspiration throughout the playoffs and throughout the season to just kind of get me going," James said. "He knows that I'm a big Gladiator fan, of course Maximus, the Roman numerals, all that stuff. So that's where the inspiration came from. Sometimes I say I want something, sometimes Mike surprises me with a lot of it. I like that. I like the inspiration."

Of course, the main source of inspiration remains the championship trophy.

Saturday was essentially a tuneup day for the Heat, given that they couldn't exactly plan for an opponent because the Celtics' 85-75 victory in Game 7 was still hours from tip-off.

Miami practiced again without All-Star forward Chris Bosh, who remains sidelined indefinitely because of a lower abdominal strain that kept him out of the final five games of the Indiana series. Bosh has been able to resume some light conditioning work, but his return to the court hardly sounds imminent.

"For me, it's my responsibility right now to prepare this team without him," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "If and when it gets to a point where he starts to emerge into the picture, we would gladly deal with that, because we're a more dangerous offensive team, a more dangerous defensive team when he's in the mix. But for our mental state of health, I love you Chris, but our preparation is without him."

Without Bosh, James and Dwyane Wade predictably were asked to do more, and responded.

Wade scored 99 points in the final three games of the Pacers series—all Miami wins—while James scored 98 points in those games. James finished the six games against the Pacers with 65 rebounds, his most ever in a postseason series, topping the 60 he grabbed in a seven-game matchup with Detroit in 2006. And Spoelstra isn't shy about suggesting that the Heat need Wade and James to stay at that level to keep winning, saying Saturday what happened in the last three games against Indiana "has to be the norm."

Wade and James indicated they welcomed that.

"You prepare to go out there and try to play at a high level," James said. "Does it always happen that way? It doesn't. Sometimes the ball just doesn't go in for you. We're not just shooting all layups. We're also making jumpers and floaters and things of that nature. He said the right thing. He said the right thing to just keep us on our toes and let us know we can't have a relaxed moment."

NY Knicks give coach Mike Woodson multiyear extension

NEW YORK (AP)—One playoff victory was good enough for Mike Woodson to return as New York Knicks coach—even with Phil Jackson lurking as a potential candidate.

Woodson knows more will be asked of him now.

"I know expectations are high and they should be high," Woodson said during a conference call, "and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

The Knicks removed the interim tag Friday and announced they had given Woodson a multiyear contract extension, rewarding him for a terrific finish to what had been a turbulent season.

Woodson led the Knicks to an 18-6 record after replacing Mike D'Antoni on March 14. The Knicks lost 4-1 to Miami in the first round, snapping an NBA-record, 13-game postseason losing streak by winning Game 4 for their first victory since 2001.

Still, there was speculation that Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan would open one of the league's biggest check books to go after Jackson, the 11-time champion coach and former Knicks player who sat out last season after retiring from the Los Angeles Lakers.

Yet the Knicks never looked anywhere beyond Woodson, believing they can continue to improve with a full season of his coaching.

Hamilton homers in 13th to lead Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Josh Hamilton hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 13th inning to lift the Texas Rangers to an 8-7 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in the American League on Saturday.

Toronto had taken a 7-5 lead in the top half, but Elvis Andrus doubled in a run off Ryota Igarashi to start the comeback. Hamilton's third game-ending homer came off Jason Frasor (0-1) and was his 20th home run of the year.

In the top of the 13th, Omar Vizquel hit an RBI single for Toronto and later scored after Nelson Cruz misplayed a flyball by Yunel Escobar with two outs.

Yoshinori Tateyama (1-0), the seventh Rangers pitcher, got one out for the win.

Tigers 6, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Max Scherzer struck out nine in a rain-shortened outing and Prince Fielder had his first four-hit game with the Tigers, leading Detroit to victory over the Twins.

Scherzer (4-3) gave up three runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings before leaving due to a rain delay and Andy Dirks had two doubles and two RBIs for the Tigers.

Jose Valverde picked up his eighth save in 10 chances.

Carl Pavano (2-4) allowed six runs on 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings for the Twins, who have lost four straight. Justin Morneau and Denard Span homered for Minnesota.

Yankees 9, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Mark Teixeira hit a two-run homer and a solo shot as the Yankees beat the Athletics for their fourth straight win.

Teixeira and Robinson Cano each homered for a second straight day as the Yankees added three more homers to give them nine homers in the last three games.

Oakland's Josh Reddick connected leading off the third for his 13th home run and second in as many games, but the A's lost their eighth in a row at home to the Yankees.

CC Sabathia (6-2) outpitched former Yankee Bartolo Colon (4-5).

White Sox 14, Indians 7

In Chicago, Dayan Viciedo homered in his third straight game as the White Sox pounded the Indians for their eighth win in nine games.

Paul Konerko had four hits, three of them doubles.

Derek Lowe (6-3) lasted just 2 1-3 innings in his shortest start this season and watched his ERA jump from an American League-leading 2.15 to 3.25 after giving up eight runs.

Jake Peavy (6-1) gave up a pair of two-run homers to Jason Kipnis and allowed seven runs in all while struggling through 6 1-3 innings.

Royals 4, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Eric Hosmer singled in the game-winning run in the eighth inning as the Royals rallied to beat the Orioles.

Hosmer went 3 for 4 with two RBIs to help the Royals make up a three-run deficit.

Billy Butler's 10th homer cut it to 3-2 in the sixth, Hosmer scored the tying run in the seventh and then put Kansas City ahead for the first time in the eighth.

Greg Holland (1-2) pitched the seventh for the win, while Pedro Strop (3-2) took the loss.

Red Sox 3, Rays 2

In Boston, Jarrod Saltalamacchia had a pinch-hit, two-run homer off Fernando Rodney with one out in the ninth inning to lift Boston past Tampa Bay.

Daniel Nava walked to open the ninth and Nick Punto sacrificed before Saltalamacchia lofted a high drive to right-center for Boston's 11th win in 15 games.

Rodney (2-1) had converted his first 15 save chances. Rich Hill (1-0) worked one inning for the win.

Angels 5, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Albert Pujols hit a home run in his third straight game and pinch hitter Alberto Callaspo came through with a grand slam in the sixth inning to lead the Angels.

Callaspo's slam came against Mariners starter Felix Hernandez (4-4) and was the first pinch grand slam for the Angels since Shane Halter hit one against Tampa Bay in 2004.

Pujols has homered in six of his last 11 games after not hitting any in April.

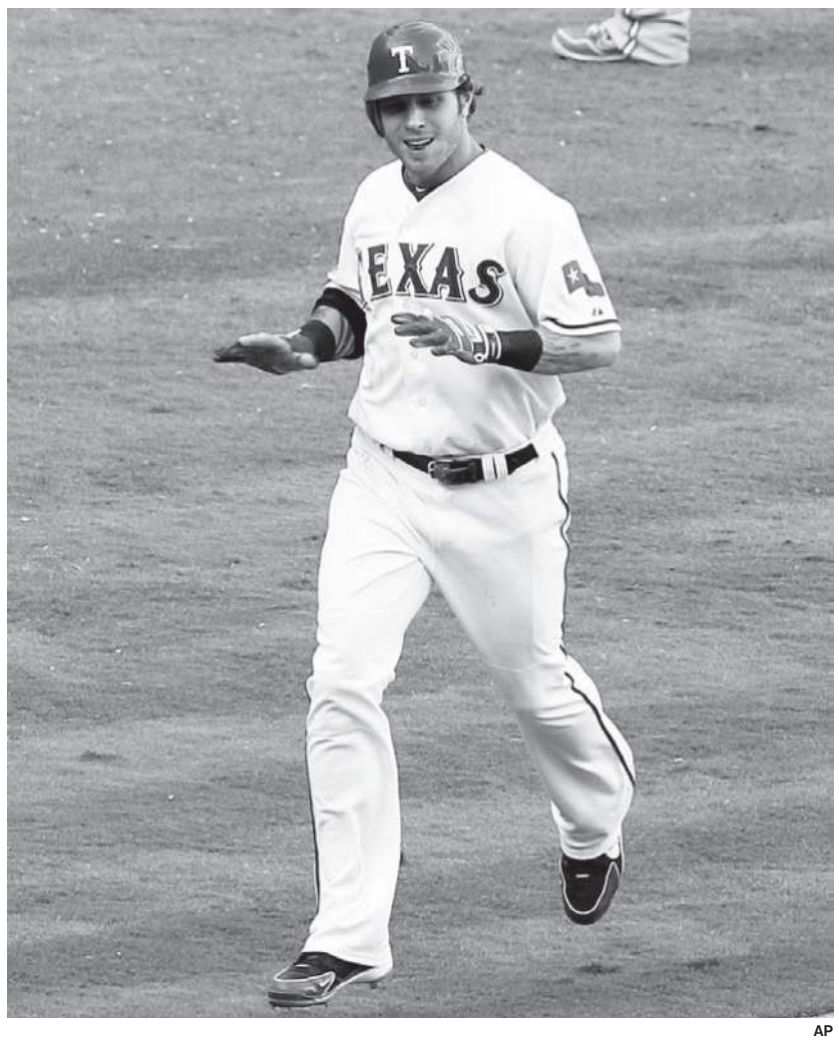
Jerome Williams (5-2) earned the victory.

Mets 9, Padres 0

In New York, Johan Santana pitched a four-hitter for his first shutout since 2010 as the New York Mets backed him with three home runs in a win over the San Diego Padres.

Santana's last shutout in August 2010 came less than a month before shoulder surgery cost him the rest of the year and all of 2011. Santana (2-2) had gone without a decision in his last three starts, all Mets losses, and had six no-decisions in his first nine.

Mike Nickeas hit New York's first grand slam of the season, and Scott Hairston and Vinny Rottino also homered for the Mets.



AP

Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton celebrates as he heads home after hitting a two-run home run off Toronto Blue Jays' Jason Frasor in the 13th inning of a baseball game on Saturday, May 26, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

Nationals 8, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Bryce Harper homered and Danny Espinosa added a three-run shot to help Washington beat reeling Atlanta.

Stephen Strasburg (5-1) got the win despite setting a season high with four walks and giving up four runs and six hits in five innings.

The Braves' season-worst losing streak reached six games. Before the game, the Braves placed Chipper Jones on the 15-day disabled list with a bruised left leg.

Kris Medlen (1-1) took the loss.

Marlins 5, Giants 3

In Miami, Mark Buehrle pitched into the eighth inning and the Marlins moved within a victory of matching the team record for the most wins in a month.

Giancarlo Stanton hit two doubles and scored twice while Logan Morrison drove in two runs for the Marlins.

Miami is a Major League best 18-7 in May. The Marlins went 19-10 in August 1997.

Buehrle (5-4) allowed two runs and eight hits while throwing 69 of 100 pitches for strikes. Madison Bumgarner (5-4) took the loss.

Phillies 4, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Kyle Kendrick threw a seven-hitter for his first career shutout, putting the Phillies on the verge of their first four-game sweep in St. Louis since 1913.

Shane Victorino's RBI double in the fourth was the only support Kendrick (1-4) needed, and John Mayberry added a two-run double in a three-run sixth.

Jaime Garcia (3-3) took the loss for the Cardinals, who hit the wall against the team they upset in the NL Division Series last fall.

The Phillies haven't swept a four-game series at St. Louis since Aug. 3-6, 1913.

Reds 10, Rockies 3

In Cincinnati, Chris Heisey gave the Reds the lead with his first home run of the season, and four relievers made it stand up as Cincinnati beat Colorado.

Devin Mesoraco and Ryan Ludwick also homered as the Reds picked up their seventh win in eight games.

Rookie J.J. Hoover (1-0), the first Cincinnati reliever, pitched 1 1-3 shutout innings for his first career win.

Colorado's Jeremy Guthrie (2-3) allowed a season-high 10 hits and tied his season worst by giving up six runs in five innings.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, Matt Hague was hit by a pitch from Rafael Dolis with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth as the Pirates sent the Cubs to their 11th straight loss.

Hague took a fastball from Dolis (2-4) in the left side, scoring Jose Tabata. Dolis also walked Josh Harrison and Neil Walker earlier in the ninth.

The Cubs managed just six hits against Kevin Correia and three relievers.

Closer Joel Hanrahan (2-0) had two strikeouts in a perfect ninth.

Diamondbacks 8, Brewers 5

In Phoenix, John McDonald hit a three-homer to lead Arizona past Milwaukee.

Gerardo Parra went 4-for-4 with a double, a walk and two runs for the Diamondbacks. His four hits tied a career best.

Zack Greinke (5-2), who had allowed one run in his previous three starts, gave up seven runs and a season-high 10 hits in 2 1-3 innings.

Rookie left-hander Wade Miley (6-1), allowed five runs in six innings for the victory.

Dodgers 6, Astros 3

In Los Angeles, A.J. Ellis hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning as the Dodgers got their 11th victory in 15 games.

The Dodgers improved the best record in the majors to 31-15 and extended their NL West lead over San Francisco to a season-high 7 1-2 games — the largest margin in any division.

Kenley Jansen (4-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings for the victory, while Wesley Wright (0-1) took the loss.

Dufner has 1-stroke lead over Johnson at Colonial

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Jason Dufner and Zach Johnson have set up what will basically be a match-play final round for the winner's plaid jacket at the Colonial.

It will be Dufner, whose only two PGA Tour victories came in the last four weeks, against the 2007 Masters champion who got the last of his seven wins two years ago at Hogan's Alley.

"It seems like one of us is either going to win or finish second," Dufner said after his 4-under 66 in the third round Saturday.

After two bogeys the previous three holes, Dufner matched playing partner Johnson's birdie putt on the 17th hole and overcame a wayward final tee shot to save par and keep the lead.

Dufner's 15-under 195 total put him a stroke ahead of Johnson, who shot 65. Tom Gillis was a distant third at 7 under after a 69.

"I really wasn't aware of (the separation) until I looked at the board on 13. It was more than I anticipated," Johnson said. "It seemed like I didn't hear too many roars in front of us, so that's a telling sign. ... I still have 18 holes and that's my focus. I totally anticipate Dufner to keep doing what he's doing. There's not a whole lot going on that's wrong."

Dufner, the winner last week in the Byron Nelson Championship about 30 miles away, is trying to win for the third time in his last four starts. He also is trying to do something only Ben Hogan has done.

Hogan, Dufner's hero, is the only player to win both PGA Tour events in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in the same year. When he did it in 1946, they weren't played in consecutive weeks.

The last player to win in consecutive weeks on the PGA Tour was Tiger Woods in 2009. Nobody won more than two tournaments last season.

Like Johnson, who wore a plaid-collared shirt Saturday, the first time Dufner realized the gap from everyone else had widened was when he saw that scoreboard at 156-yard 13th hole. And he had a three-stroke lead then.

"From that point on I kind of knew that ... we are going to be battling it out in kind of a unique situation," Dufner said. "The leaderboards here most of the year have been pretty packed and you got a lot of guys having a chance to win the title the last nine holes."

Dufner avoided a playoff at the Nelson with a 25-foot birdie on the 72nd hole. He has led or shared the lead after 12 of his last 35 rounds, including five of the last seven.

After bogeys at Nos. 14 and 16, Dufner's approach at the 379-yard 17th rolled about 8 feet from the flag.

Johnson, within a stroke of the lead after a 17-foot birdie at the par-3 16th, followed Dufner at No. 17 with a shot to the same spot—his ball up and stopped against the one already on the green. After a rules official sorted out the marks, Johnson curled in a birdie putt. Dufner then did the same to keep his lead.

When his final tee shot of the day went way left, closer to the 10th fairway than the 18th, Dufner got his next shot on the green and two-putted from 68 feet to save par.

Before winning at New Orleans on April 29, the 35-year-old Dufner was winless in his previous 163 PGA Tour starts. He then took a week off to get married, returned to play at The Players Championship before winning the Nelson.

Dos Santos stops Mir, keeps UFC heavyweight title

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Brazilian Junior Dos Santos flattened Frank Mir with a huge right hand and finished him on the ground at 3:04 of the second round Saturday night, emphatically defending his heavyweight title at UFC 146 on Saturday night.

Dos Santos (15-1) picked apart the two-time ex-champion with superior boxing throughout the fight, finishing Mir with one last blow to the head.

Dos Santos then wrapped himself in the Brazilian flag while celebrating his first title defense since taking the belt from Cain Velasquez last fall.

"I'm feeling awesome!" he said to the crowd. "It's not bad for a nice guy, huh? ... Frank Mir is a really good fighter, too. I came here to defend my belt, and I did it."

Velasquez stopped Antonio "Bigfoot" Silva late in the first round at the MGM Grand Garden.

Roy Nelson, Stipe Miocic and Stefan Struve also won on a card topped with five heavyweight fights, a first in UFC history.

Dos Santos never faced trouble in the fight's eight minutes after easily avoiding an opening-minute takedown attempt by Mir, who hoped his superior jiu-jitsu skills would allow him to avoid Dos Santos' unparalleled striking ability.

Mir, who turned 33 on Thursday, has the most heavyweight victories in UFC history, but he couldn't match Dos Santos' skills.

"He's a champ," Mir said. "He's fast. I couldn't get out of the way. He hit me hard. There were just too many of them, and they were hard shots. I couldn't do anything about it."

Dos Santos downplayed the revenge element of beating Mir, who broke the arm of Dos Santos' mentor, Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira, in a fight last December.

Mir (16-6) had won three straight fights since losing a title shot to Shane Carwin in March 2010, but couldn't reclaim the belt he held in 2004 before getting into a serious motorcycle accident and again in early 2009 before losing to Brock Lesnar.

Velasquez (10-1) finished Silva at 3:36 of the first round, but only after pulverizing the 6-foot-4 Brazilian with a relentless series of blows after an early takedown. Silva (16-4) was cut on his face early in the beating, sending streams of blood down his face and onto the canvas, eventually coating both fighters' torsos.

GUAM

From Page 28

If Palau did break the press, shooters had little or time or option but jack up a poor percentage shot in traffic. These resulted in long rebounds and Guam feasted on open fastbreak buckets.

Forward Rashaun Blas and guard Sam Setik capitalized the most on Guam's leak-out plays, as the duo combined for 19 points in the second quarter as the U.S. territory rested at the half in full control, 59-27.

Guam's regulars sat majority of the third quarter, but Palau failed to gain any headway even against the powerhouse team's reserves.

With Blas scoring 4 more and seldom-used Javier Dimla firing 5 points, Guam doubled up Palau, 86-42, heading into the fourth canto.

Behind Raddison Dorado and Carlson, who both scored 7 points in the final quarter, Palau finally hummed offensively against Guam's second-stringers in the championship game's final 10 minutes.

Palau did outscore Guam, 16-14, in the fourth quarter but it hardly made a dent on the U.S. territory's mammoth lead as the eventual champions won the game and the tournament running away.

Center Michael Sakazaki, who according to coach Tipton is the only all-star in a team made up of role players, tied Blas for team scoring honors with 16 markers.

While unheralded Sam Setik this time outscored his twin brother Sammy, 16-13.

Dorado paced Palau in the loss with a game-high 18, while Carlson added 11. Marvic Ngchar, the hero of their win against CNMI 1, struggled all game long against Guam's defense and ended up with 10 markers.

In the girls finals, one day after the CNMI boys U17 team was upset by Palau, the home crowd finally had something to cheer about when the CNMI girls U17 team led Guam after the first quarter.

With leading scorers Liamwar Rangamar and Jamie Mendoza shooting from all angles for 6 and 8 points, respectively, CNMI 1 shocked Guam by taking a 22-16 advantage going into the second quarter.

Guam, however, buckled down to work at the start of the second canto. Behind Destiny Castro 10 points, the U.S. territory turned the tables on CNMI 1 to lead by 10 points, 42-32, at intermission.

CNMI 1 tried to recapture their first quarter magic in the second half and were at times successful by cutting the lead to 9 points on several occasions.

But just when the home team seemed headed for a breakthrough, CNMI 1 would botch an open layup, misfire on an easy putback, or go 0-for-2 from the foul line.

Guam in contrast made good on their opportunities, as they hustled down on defense and ran hard for fastbreak forays and a result they were able to open a sizeable lead against upset-conscious CNMI 1, 53-38, with a quarter to go in the finals.

Castro teamed up with Kali Benavente to put on the finishing touches in their championship victory, firing 5 and 6 markers, respectively, in the payoff period as Guam repulsed CNMI 1's last-ditch stand and won by 14 points.

Kara Duenas controlled the inside all game long to finish with 17 points to lead Guam, while Castro and Benevante added 16 and 14.

Rangamar was brilliant in defeat with a game-high 22 markers, while Mendoza chipped in 13.

In the earlier games, CNMI 2 beat Tinian, 57-46, to win third place in the girls; while CNMI 1 edged Tinian, 87-84, to claim second runner-up honors in the boys.

GIRLS

Guam 70 – Duenas 17, Castro 16, Benavente 14, Bunto 8, Yeban 6, Mendiola 4, Pangilinan 3, Quitugua 2.

CNMI 1 56 – Rangamar 22, Mendoza 13, Ito 7, Abrams 7, Williams 4, Rios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-22, 42-32, 53-38, 70-56.

BOYS

Guam 100 – Sakazaki 16, Blas 16, Sam Setik 16, Sammy Setik 13, Taitano 8, Oledan 8, Merrill 6, Quichocho 6, Dilma 5, Flores 4, Jose 2.

Palau 58 – Dorado 18, Carlson 11, Ngchar 10, Wilter 8, Baysa 5, Yaoch 4, Ngemaes 2,

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 59-27, 86-42, 100-58.

RANGAMAR

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Benevente, meanwhile, normed 18 points per game after totaling 90 markers in the tourney. Castro had 51 points in three games to finish with a 17 points per game average, while Mendoza and Abrams averages 11.6 and 8 points per game, respectively.

In the boys side, Pettis led the boys tourney team that also included Guam's Sammy Setik, Palau's Marvic Ngchar, CNMI 1's Jack Aranda, and CNMI 2's Karlo De Leon.

The Tinian hotshot had the most votes from the coaches with 12, followed by Ngchar (10), Setik (8), Aranda (7), and De Leon (6).

Pettis led all scorers with 19 points per game after pouring in a total of 152 points in the tourney. Ngchar, who almost single-handedly beat CNMI 1 in the semis, finished with 136 points to norm 17 a game.

Setik powered Guam to an undefeated record en route to the championship after scoring 106 points and finished with a 13.25 points per game average. Aranda scored points aplenty despite playing point for CNMI 1. He ended up with 125 points for a 15.6 average.

De Leon, meanwhile, showed he is one of the Commonwealth's up-and-coming cagers after norming 11.3 points for CNMI 2. Deleon and girls CNMI 1's Mendoza are the nephew and niece of former CNMI men's national player Edsel Mendoza.

MILLER

From Page 28

6-3. Miller drew a bye last Saturday and played his first match in the tournament against Sakano yesterday. The boys U18 finale will be played today at 10:30am.

In other results, Chris Cajigan and Moris Villanueva forced a title showdown in the boys U15 singles after going undefeated over the weekend. Cajigan first topped Colin Ramsey last Saturday, 6-1, 6-3 and then swept Dylan Ackerman in the semis yesterday, 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the finals for the second straight time. Cajigan won last year's boys U15 crown against Chris Park.

Villanueva, who was in the boys U12 draw last year, made it to his first U15 finals stint after beating Aaron Lee in the first round, 6-0, 6-1, and stunning the second-seeded Carl Dela Cruz in the semis yesterday, 6-2, 6-2.

In the boys U12 finals at 9am today, it will be Steven Goodwin versus Clayton Izuka. Izuka lived up to his top billing after thumping Joshua Abragan in the quarterfinals, 6-1, 6-1, and surviving Vincent Tudela in the semis of the upper half bracket, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6. In the lower half bracket, Goodwin won over Ken Son, 6-1, 6-2, and Michael Jones, 6-3, 6-1.

In the boys U10, Kevin Kim made it to the finals against the victor of the other semis game between Mondo Taniguchi and Aditya Rai. Kim shut out Jeffrey Seo, 8-0, and Tony Atalig, 8-4, to move into the finals. Taniguchi drew a bye in the first round and was scheduled to play yesterday against Rai, who won his first match against Rintaro Miyawaki, 8-4.

Meanwhile, in the girls competition, Catherine Atalig and Asia Raulerson dispute the U10 crown today, while Julia Ishikawa and Liza Atalig battle for the U12 tiara. Catherine Atalig and Raulerson marched into the finals after beating Conatsu Kaga, 8-4, and Ruth Park, 8-2, in the semis, respectively. Catherine's sister, Liza, also booked a finals ticket after Ami Calvert in the semis, 6-4, 6-3, while Ishikawa won over Hana Nelson in the other Final Four pairing, 6-1, 6-2.

In the U15 and U18 age groups, which both have a round-robin format, Negahr Rastguiy, Carol Lee, Thea Minor, and Alina Ishikawa recorded one win each as of yesterday morning.

SWEEPS

From Page 28

21-18, while Panapa Peteru and Rose Lazaro survived Sang Do Park and Ae Im Myung, 24-21, 23-21.

In the mixed doubles B, all three opening games were decided in two games with Rodwealth Espana and Elna Curate winning over Arie Cordero and Jaja Samonte, 21-15, 21-14; Joel and Alma Ortega beating Brandon Talania and Cris Obaldo, 21-8, 21-14; and Celso Agui and Loyda Ito downing Ramir Belialba and Christy Villaflore, 21-18, 21-8.

In the lone mixed doubles A match, Sam Jones and Ito swept Espana and Shirley Kim, 21-18, 21-16.

In the singles division, four games were played in the opening day with Talania, Kanata Omori, Jane Tupas, and Saul Gargallo recording separate wins. Talania edged Joel Ortega, 21-18, 14-21, 21-8, and Omori triumphed over Jeff Riman, 21-19, 21-7 in the in the men's singles C; Tupas swept Roma Barlao in the women's singles C, 21-8, 21-12; and Gargallo slipped past Noli Santos in the men's singles A, 21-6, 18-21, 21-15.

In Day 2 of the opening week of the IT&E-backed tournament, two of the three games in the mixed doubles C were won after two games, while all four matches in the mixed doubles B were completed also after only two games. The only tiff in the mixed doubles A was played in three games with Santos and Annarose Omori surviving Glenn Bluutjens and Annette Ta, 12-21, 21-19, 21-17.

In the singles division, six players posted wins via sweeps. The list includes men's C's Ortega and Midori Obi, men's B's Wowie Abuel, men's A's Jones and Ferdie Arago, and women's A's Hannah Choi.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	29	18	.617	_
Tampa Bay	28	19	.596	1
New York	25	21	.543	3 1/2
Toronto	24	23	.511	5
Boston	23	23	.500	5Ω
Central Division				
Cleveland	26	20	.565	_
Chicago	25	22	.532	1 1/2
Detroit	22	24	.478	4
Kansas City	18	27	.400	7 1/2
Minnesota	15	31	.326	11
West Division				
Texas	29	18	.617	_
Los Angeles	23	25	.479	6 1/2
Oakland	22	25	.468	7
Seattle	21	28	.429	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	28	18	.609	_
Miami	26	21	.553	2 1/2
New York	26	21	.553	2 1/2
Atlanta	26	22	.542	3
Philadelphia	25	23	.521	4
Central Division				
Cincinnati	26	20	.565	_
St. Louis	25	22	.532	1 1/2
Houston	22	24	.478	4
Pittsburgh	22	24	.478	4
Milwaukee	19	27	.413	7
Chicago	15	31	.326	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	31	15	.674	_
San Francisco	24	23	.511	7 1/2
Arizona	21	26	.447	10 1/2
Colorado	17	28	.378	13 1/2
San Diego	17	31	.354	15

CROWNE PLAZA INVITATIONAL AT COLONIAL SCORES

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Crowne Plaza Invitational, a US PGA Tour event at 7,204-yard, par-70 Colonial Country Club:

THIRD ROUND

Jason Dufner	65-64-66	–195
Zach Johnson	64-67-65	–196
Tom Gillis	65-69-69	–203
Bo Van Pelt	69-64-71	–204
John Huh	70-66-69	–205
Ryan Palmer	68-67-70	–205
Kelly Kraft	71-71-64	–206
Jonas Blixt	73-67-66	–206
Jim Furyk	69-69-68	–206
Louis Oosthuizen	71-67-68	–206
Ryan Moore	67-69-70	–206
Rickie Fowler	68-68-70	–206
Tommy Gainey	66-67-73	–206
Jonathan Byrd	72-68-67	–207
Kevin Chappell	70-67-70	–207
David Hearn	71-72-65	–208
Y.E. Yang	73-69-66	–208
Corey Pavin	71-70-67	–208
Matt Kuchar	72-69-67	–208
Hunter Mahan	69-71-68	–208
Sung Kang	70-69-69	–208
Charley Hoffman	69-70-69	–208
Greg Owen	69-68-71	–208
Harris English	65-70-73	–208
Ken Duke	68-75-66	–209
Chris Stroud	69-73-67	–209
Roberto Castro	67-74-68	–209
Ben Crane	70-71-68	–209
Brendon de Jonge	67-74-68	–209
John Daly	70-69-70	–209
Vijay Singh	70-69-70	–209
David Mathis	71-67-71	–209
Kyle Reifers	65-72-72	–209
Trevor Immelman	70-71-69	–210
Geoff Ogilvy	70-70-70	–210
Chris Kirk	71-69-70	–210
Sergio Garcia	66-73-71	–210
Tim Clark	70-69-71	–210
Carl Pettersson	70-69-71	–210
Bobby Gates	71-67-72	–210
Boo Weekley	72-71-68	–211
J.J. Killeen	72-70-69	–211
Jerry Kelly	72-70-69	–211
Chad Campbell	71-71-69	–211
Blake Adams	69-72-70	–211
Martin Flores	68-73-70	–211
Jason Bohn	70-70-71	–211
Michael Thompson	69-71-71	–211
Seung-Yul Noh	70-69-72	–211
Greg Chalmers	70-69-72	–211
Bryce Molder	72-64-75	–211
Brandt Jobe	67-75-70	–212
Will Claxton	72-69-71	–212
Kevin Na	70-71-71	–212
John Senden	69-71-72	–212
Charlie Wi	68-69-75	–212
Miguel Angel Carballo	75-68-70	–213
John Mallinger	71-72-70	–213
Bill Haas	72-71-70	–213
Pat Perez	69-74-70	–213
Rory Sabbatini	71-71-71	–213
Josh Teater	70-71-72	–213
George McNeill	72-69-72	–213
Chris DiMarco	66-74-73	–213
Mark Wilson	71-71-72	–214
Nick Watney	71-71-72	–214
William McGirt	70-71-73	–214
Aaron Baddeley	71-70-73	–214
Marc Leishman	72-68-74	–214
Gary Christian	70-73-72	–215
Kris Blanks	73-69-73	–215
Andres Romero	66-71-78	–215

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manta Rays win golf; Kwon takes 9-hole tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Participants of MISO's 2012 golf season gather for a group photo after the conclusion of the postseason tournament held last Friday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

MISO Saipan Southern High School's boys and girls golf teams cleaned out the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's awards after the conclusion of Thursday's final round held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

SSHS was presented with perpetual team trophies, which will be displayed in the school's trophy case until next year's champions are crowned.

The SSHS Mantas are led by sophomore standout Soon Hyung Kwon, who finished the four-round season with a field low -67 individual tally that paced teammates Edwin Arceo, Luis Liu, Grant Rhee, and Yoon Jae Won.

The group finished with a total count of -124 for first place, just 8 strokes ahead of Kagman High School's seven-man Ayuyus (-116). The Marianas High School's Dolphins duo of Zak Yamagishi and Tiger rounded out the third spot at -60.

KHS senior Spencer Camacho finished second place at -51, while a -36 by MHS' Tiger edged out SSHS's Grant (-35) for third place on the podium.

Soon lost to Camacho -14 to -17 in the season opener, but rebounded nicely and took the last three rounds with a -17, -18, and another -18 on Thursday.

The Lady Mantas' foursome, comprised of freshmen field-low finisher Boh Yun, Kim, Donnatella Guzman, senior Da Young Hang, and Ciuss Morales finished the season with a grand total of -80 for top honors over a seven-lady KHS Ayuyu squad (-51). Only the two schools made up the field.

Kim's -24 overall count clipped her teammate Hang (-31) by three strokes with KHS Lady Ayuyu's Kiona Mendiola taking third place at -21.

Kim started slow out of the gate with just a -4 in the season opener, but stepped up her game in the last three legs with an -11, -9, and finally a -10 on Thursday.

In total, 14 boys and 11 girls participated in the season, which included two nine-hole rounds played at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort and at Laolao's west course.

In addition, the group gathered again the next day at COP for MISO's first-ever postseason nine-hole tournament that ended with SSHS shining again, especially Kwon who snagged the top prize in the boys division with a -23, just one stroke ahead of KHS' Camacho, while a -19 scratched by MHS' Zak Yamagishi earned third place honors.

As for the ladies, SSHS swept the board, but this time Hang came out on top as her -19 narrowly showed up Kim's -18 with teammate De Guzman finishing third overall.

The Top 3 place finishers were each awarded medals and a coupon for a free-nine hole round of golf compliments of COP. Eight boys and seven girls turned out for Friday's send-off event held on the front nine; four other coupons were also raffled away to the students before the winners were recognized.

The scores may look peculiar because of the developmental program's special scoring system where basically standard par is doubled and if a player exceeds double par on a hole they simply pick their ball up and start fresh on the next hole.

MISO organizers would like to thank Mr. Fumoto and Vince Torres of Suwaso Corp. and COP, as well as Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Next year, MISO hopes to expand the number of participating schools in addition to organizing more special nine-hole tournaments at other courses.

Aldan tops SGA May Ace tourney

Ben Aldan won the Saipan Golfers Association May Ace of the Month Tournament after firing a net score of 64 last May 20 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

Aldan beat out a strong field of 23 players to join Bob Magofna (January), Juan L. Babauta (February), Das Krishnan (March), and Art Deleon Guerrero (April) as the early qualifiers of SGA's Ace of Aces season-ending tournament.

He carded the best score for the May tourney after firing a 44 in the front and back. Along the way, Aldan won two closest-to-the-pin in holes No. 11 and 15.

Netting a 66, Babauta placed second with a longest drive in hole No. 5 to go along with three birdies.

Aldan

Juan Lizama and Adam Hardwicke finished tied for third with their identical net scores of 70. The former secured third place after birdying the lowest handicap hole, while newcomer Hardwicke bogeyed it.

Hardwicke didn't go home empty-handed though as the chief public defender took closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 4 and caught two birdies as well.

Also taking part in the May affair were Larry Deleon Guerrero (net score of 72, longest drive in hole No. 10 and one birdie), Ned Norita (73, two birdies, and closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 6), Frank Castro, Rick Kautz (one birdie), Ray San Nicolas (four birdies), Ray Dela Cruz (one birdie), Art Deleon Guerrero and Frances Sablan (all tied with net scores of 74), Edward Sablan (net score 75), Jung Eun Taeck (net score 77), Frankie Pangelinan and Mariano Fajardo (1 birdie) both had net scores of 78, Tony Deleon Guerrero, Steve Balakrishna (two birdies), and Martin Sablan (all had net scores of 80), Nick Sablan (net score 81 and two birdies), Das Krishnan (net score 83), and Juan "Pan" Guerrero (net score 94).

SGA's June Ace of the Month is tentatively scheduled on June 17 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Show and tee time will be announced later. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Fastbreakers finish off Gualo Rai in OT

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Fastbreakers outsteadied Gualo Rai, 92-83, in overtime as the 2012 Domino Lux DL/JOS Intercolor Basketball League season continued over last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In other results, D-31 barely made it past Marianas Water, 73-72, in Saturday's late game, while on Friday Pacific Grocers held on to defeat Sinigang, 70-63, after which Pogi fought off LO Prime-Blue Ice, 71-59.

Gualo Rai postured an early 19-18 edge in the first quarter on Saturday's late pairing from 9 points by Nelson Samson, but the Fastbreakers answered back in the second quarter and moved in front, 32-28, at halftime. Five different players put a hand in during the surge.

Gualo Rai made some adjustments at intermission and reclaimed the lead, 53-50, heading in the final period thanks to nine free throws by Danny Dayrit and 10 other markers from Victor Mallari.

Luther Taylor managed 8 points in the third quarter to keep the Fastbreakers in range and teammates Nevin Salem and Melvin Cadiang each tallied nine in the fourth quarter to help knot the match at 79-all at the end of regulation.

J.P. Jose strung together 16 points for Gualo Rai in the fourth, but his team could not shut the door on Fastbreakers in the bonus period.

It also helped that Fastbreakers limited Jose to just two buckets in overtime, while Salem dropped seven to secure the win.

Salem led the victors with 24 points in the game, while Jose led all scorers with 27, while Dayrit finished with 12, all from the free throw line.

Marianas Water's Melvin Caplad connected on a couple of early 3-pointers in Saturday's opener to push his team in front, 23-16, in the first quarter, but D-31's Rodney Sacramento delivered 10 points in the second period to pull his team within a point, 37-38, at the half.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Pogi's Jason Bahillio slashes to the lane against LO Prime-Blue Ice in their DLX caging matchup last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Both teams battled back and forth as it became a 52-all deadlock heading into the final period.

D-31's Jimmy Florendo provided 8 points in the third quarter, while Marianas Water received markers from a mixed bag of players.

This match went all the way down to the wire and despite six free throws made by Marianas Water in the late minutes, 7 big points from D-31's Dexter Tenorio played a larger role in the outcome.

He scored only four points in the previous three quarters before playing the late hero.

Teammate Sacramento carried the torch with 21 points overall, while Marianas Water's Capalad topped the field with 25.

Pac-Groicers' Joel Saplan carried his team with 9 points at the start of Friday's opening tiff, but it remained knotted at 15-all after the first quarter of play.

He added eight in the second period and received some needed support from his team to nab a 33-30 edge at the half, but Sinigang regrouped after the break and turned the tables, 54-51, in the third period.

Sinigang's Gary Macahinto and Jerald Hobijan combined for 16 in the rally, but its offense disappeared at crunch time.

Pac-Grocers' Saplan led the field with 23 points, while Macahinto paced Sinigang with 18. The latter was held scoreless in the payoff period.

Pogi got an early, 12-7, margin in the opening 10 minutes of Friday's late pairing and stretched it to a 30-19 advantage at midpoint for a strong defensive showing in the first half.

Pogi's Jerwin Maguero then led his team's third quarter push with 8 points that constructed a daunting, 52-34, lead heading into the last quarter as they cruised to an easy win.

Pogi's Jason Bahillio and Harold Aranda led a well-balanced attack with a dozen apiece, while Blue Ice's Ronald Araygar finished with a game-high 18 on the short end.

SATURDAY
First Game

D-31 73 – Sacramento 21, Florendo 15, Lester 14, Tenorio 12, Culala 6, Cariaso 3, Sablan 2.

Marianas Water 72 – Capalad 25, Casabuena 14, Pacheco 9, Olivos 8, Galulu 7, Lazona 5, Hilario 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-23, 37-38, 52-52, 73-72.

Second Game

Fastbreakers 82 – Salem 24, Cadiang 21, Palacios 14, Taylor 14, De Leon 6, Isip 5, Manangan 4, Olfindo 2, Aranda 2

Gualo Rai 83 – Jose 27, Samson 25, Mallari 16, Dayrit 12, Mabini 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-19, 32-28, 50-53, 79-79, 92-83 (OT).

FRIDAY
First Game

Pacific Grocers 70 – Saplan 23, Lansang 10, Pason 10, Zapata 8, Towon 7, Master 6, Santos 4.

Sinigang 63 – Macahinto 18, Gotengco 12, Hobijan 9, Moran 12, Ano 7, Madreo 4, Lapuz 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 33-30, 51-54, 70-63.

Second Game

Pogi 71 – Ja. Bahillio 12, H. Aranda 12, Raguero 10, Lansang 9, Je. Bahillio 8, Sula 7, Alegre 5, Salazar 4, R. Aranda 2.

LO Prime-Blue Ice 59 – Araygar 18, Acosta 14, Guemado 11, Magtuloy 10, Espinosa 4, Pepez 2, Quemada 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-7, 30-19, 52-34, 71-59.

Rondo leads Celtics to Game 7 win over 76ers

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Hamilton homers in 13th to lead Rangers

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Guam sweeps boys, girls U17 MBT

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As expected Guam swept the boys and girls 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament finals last Saturday with victories over Palau and CNMI 1, respectively, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

But while the U.S. territory's U17 men's national team hardly broke into a sweat in their 100-58 demolition of an overmatched Palau five, Guam's girls team trailed for the first time in a quarter before wearing down CNMI 1, 70-56.

In typical fashion, the Guam boys got off to a solid start limiting Palau to 4 points in the game's first seven minutes of play to go up by double digits.

Palau, however, regrouped in the final minutes of the opening quarter to trim their deficit to 11 points, 12-23.

The only competitive sequence of the championship game saw Medermel Yaoch and Cullen Carlson go toe-to-toe against Guam's big boys by scoring Palau's last 8 points.

Guam, however, left no doubt about the finals outcome as head coach Brent Tipton unleashed the team's dreaded full-court press at the start of the second quarter.

All of a sudden, Palau ball-handlers had difficulty crossing halfcourt as a swarm of Guam players harassed them at every turn.

More often than not Palau players were stripped off the ball and that led to easy transition baskets for Guam.

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MARK RABAGO

The Guam U17 boys and girls team pose for a photo with their trophies and medals alongside their coaches after sweeping the 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

The 2012 MBT All Tournament Girls Team, from left, CNMI 1's Liamwar Rangamar and Rachel Abrams, Guam's Destiny Castro, CNMI 1's Jamie Mendoza, and Guam's Kali Benavente.

Rangamar, Pettis lead all tourney team

By MARK RABAGO
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CNMI 1's Liamwar Rangamar and Tinian's Darius Pettis led the All Tournament team of the 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament that concluded Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rangamar headed the girls all tourney team, which also included her teammates Jamie Mendoza and Rachel Abrams and Guam's Destiny Castro and Kali Benavente.

The veteran of the CNMI women's national basketball team that won the gold medal in the 2006 Micronesian Games received 11 votes from coaches of participating teams.

Benavente was the second-highest vote-getter with 7, followed by Castro (6), Abrams (6), and Mendoza (5).

For the record, Rangamar scored 56 points in four games during the weeklong competition, capped by her 22-point explosion in CNMI 1's 56-70 loss in the finals against Guam. She wound up averaging 14 points per game.

See RANGAMAR on Page 26

Miller streaks to fourth U18 finals stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Surging Christian Miller earned his fourth straight boys U18 finals appearance this year after winning over Amami Sakano in the semifinals of the 2012 Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Miller, who made it to the championship of the 2012 Coconut Classic in February, PIC tournament in March, and the CNMI Junior Championships early this month and swept all three titles, downed Sakano in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, to boost his chances for a fourth straight U18 crown.

Miller's foe will be the winner of the Rafael Jones-Jake Lee semis. Lee and Jones dueled for the last finals berth yesterday afternoon, but results of the game were unavailable at press time.

Lee and Jones arranged a semis tiff after prevailing over separate foes last Saturday. Lee defeated last year's finalist Daniel Park, 6-2, 6-2, while the defending champion Jones also had a two-set victory over Seiya Eda, 6-1,

See MILLER on Page 26

Christian Miller goes for a backhand return against Amami Sakano during their boys U18 semis game in the 2012 Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court in San Antonio.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Joel Ortega, seen here in a tournament played last March, was one of the opening day winners in the IT&E singles and doubles competition at the NMBA Gym.

Sweeps in opener of badminton tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five pairs opened their campaign in the IT&E Singles & Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2012 with a bang after sweeping their respective foes at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

In the mixed doubles C division games on May 19, Luis Camacho and Lani Santos defeated Ji Min Lee and Hyun Sook Lee in two games, 21-17,

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